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19 March 1986

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

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PHILIPPINES

REPORTAGE ON ASIAN RECOGNITION, ANALYSIS OF AQUINO GOVERNMENT

Nations Recognize, Welcome New Government

HK261110 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] [No place name as received] 26 Feb (AFP)--The Philippines' neighbors in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) welcomed the new Aquino administration Wednesday and praised the struggle of the Filipino people.

Member nations in the ASEAN, grouping the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei, consulted before releasing their individual comments.

Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon in a telegram to Mrs Aquino, which the government confirmed was recognition, wished "every success in your noble task ahead."

"My government stands ready to cooperate fully in partnership with the Philippine government both bilaterally and within the context of ASEAN."

"To all the Filipino people, our best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of their nation. Their struggle, which has brought about a peaceful transition of the government, has earned the deep respect and admiration of all."

Malaysia recognised the Aquino administration, saying that it was gratified and relieved that the crisis had ended. Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen bin Ismail said Malaysia looked forward to improving bilateral relations and consolidating cooperation within ASEAN.

"Malaysia congratulates the Filipino people in their hour of triumph and fulfillment after such a determined and courageous struggle," he said.

A Singapore statement said, "good sense and restraint on the part of both contending parties have averted tragic bloodshed. President Corazon Aquino and the Filipino people can take pride in overcoming a grave political crisis in a manner that does credit to democracy."

"We are also grateful to President Marcos for eventually recognizing the wishes of the Filipino people and departing in a manner that has enabled a peaceful hand-over of power."

Indonesia's President Suharto sent a congratulatory message to Mrs Aquino, expressing "hope that the people of the Philippines will soon be able to restore their national unity and solidarity."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing said "the Chinese Government welcomes the new government of the Republic of the Philippines formed by Mrs Aquino. We hope that the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and the traditional friendship between the two peoples will continue to develop."

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke sent a cable of congratulations to Mrs Aquino saying, "this would not have been possible without your courage and determination which have won admiration in Australia and around the world."

Later it was confirmed that Foreign Minister Bill Hayden would visit on 10 March.

Speaking to reporters, Mr Hawke said Mr Marcos had apparently "raped the wealth of the Philippines," by salting away billions or hundreds of millions of dollars and was a "very, very unsatisfactory human being."

Japanese Prime Minister Yosuke Nakasone said he sent two legislators to Manila Wednesday as special envoys to convey his congratulations to Mrs Aquino.

He said he was pleased that the power transfer had been peaceful and that he hoped the new government would enact reforms to restore political and economic stability as soon as possible. He said Japan would do as much as possible to help Manila with economic aid.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong read a statement saying, "We particularly pay high tribute to the wisdom and courage that have been demonstrated by the people of the Republic of the Philippines in overcoming national difficulties without bloodshed and violence."

Taiwan, which maintains unofficial ties with Manila, issued a statement saying "we hope the Philippines will head for stability, peacefulness and prosperity under the leadership of the new administration."

Bangladesh military ruler President Hussain Mohammad Ershad extended "heartiest congratulations" to Mrs Aquino.

Papers Cite Main Problems

HK271029 Hong Kong AFP in English 1012 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] [no place-name as received] 27 Feb (AFP)--Asian newspapers Thursday cited the Philippines' economic crisis and communist insurgency as premier among problems the Aquino administration should tackle.

The BANGKOK POST warned: "The threat of civil war has now dissipated but not the Philippines' economic problems. The new President Corazon Aquino inherits a staggering 25 billion dollar national debt and an economy in its worst slump since World War II.

"Her most pressing problem, however, is to consolidate her power and form a competent and cohesive administration."

The national newspaper in Bangkok said, "Ringing out the old was difficult, but ringing in the new will be a far more difficult task" for the new government, "but all sides concerned must be congratulated for avoiding a bloodshed."

All of Tokyo's major newspapers described the take over of the presidency as a "triumph of democracy," but the largest circulation YOMUIRI SHIMBUN pointed out 40 percent unemployment and capital flight from the Philippines as among to its economic problems. [as printed]

It said monopolies Mr Marcos gave to cronies over such products as coconuts, sugar and copper should be broken up to start narrowing the wide gap between the poor and rich.

THE JAPAN TIMES raising the same issue, said "whether or not Mrs Aquino will succeed in this area depends on political stability, including pacification of communist insurgents and reform of economic system."

The degree of stability achieved greatly influence the security of the Philippines' immediate neighbors as well as more distant countries such as Japan and the United States, it said.

The JAKARTA POST predicted changed roles for the military and the Catholic Church.

The rebellion showed "a clear indication of the heightened political awareness of the military," and the church statement decrying the 7 February elections as fraudulent meant "one could expect an increasing political role of the Roman Catholic Church," it said.

Indonesia's leading national newspaper KOMPAS pointed to dealing with the communist insurgents as a major problem to be tackled by Mrs Aquino.

North Korea's Pyongyang Radio, monitored in Tokyo, said Mr Marcos' departure "the miserable fate of a dictator who followed the U.S. imperialistic policy."

South Korea's English newspaper THE KOREA HERALD said, "healing the wounds and generating national dynamism based on popular consensus and solidarity is the primary and most urgent mission of the new government."

THE STRAITS TIMES of Singapore said Mrs Aquino's assumption of power was "one of the most stirring and powerful displays of the democratic processes in modern times."

"Rarely has the will of nation been expressed in so naked a form, with such dignity and self-restraint," it said.

THE BUSINESS TIMES commented, "credit for the fine handling of the situation go to several parties, not least among which is Mr Marcos for accepting the inevitable after an earlier stubborn stance to "fight to the last drop of blood."

It added, "after some apparent indecision, the U.S. Government is now to be commended for tipping the scale in persuading Mr Marcos to bow out to 'people power'." And it gave main credit to Mrs Aquino for her "commitment to non-violence," shared by the Roman Catholic Church.

Shim Myong-Bo, South Korea's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) spokesman, warned opposition members not to compare the Philippine situation to South Korea, where an opposition movement for greater democracy is under way.

He said comments to this effect came from a flagrant error in "realizing the basic facts about the Philippines" and were intended to mislead the South Korean people.

South Korean top dissident Kim Tae-chung said that the change in the Philippines would bring about a "domino phenomena in Asia's democracy, as the democratization of Argentina did in the Latin America."

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PHILIPPINES

PAPERS PRAISE AQUINO, PEACEFUL TRANSITION

DAILY EXPRESS on Toppling of Marcos

HK261319 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 Feb 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Triumph of 'People's Power'"]

[Text] The peaceful transfer of power from the Marcos regime to the Aquino government was achieved through a new force that will be remembered in world political history. This force is what is now called "people's power." A government was toppled not through the use of violence, of guns and soldiers as was usually the case in other countries, but through passive resistance. More important, lives of combatants from both sides were saved by this people's power.

By forming human barricades around Camps Crame and Aguinaldo and around channel 4, hundreds of thousands of civilians prevented loyalist forces from attacking the reformist band holed up in the two camps. At the earlier stage of the standoff, the loyalist forces had the muscle to crush the reformists where they were cornered in a small area that is hardly a fortress. But the hundreds of thousands of civilians who blocked the streets around the two camps prevented the tanks and soldiers from even getting near the camps.

Former President Marcos also deserves praise for choosing a peaceful solution to the crisis. By firmly reigning in his generals, who were eager to storm the reformists' camps, he prevented a bloodbath that would surely have erupted had the two sides come within shooting distance. The knowledge that hundreds of thousands of his countrymen were preventing his soldiers from crushing the rebels must have made him realize that his regime is so disliked by the citizens that they are willing to risk death and injury to prevent him from staying in office. This was what probably convinced him to resign and leave peacefully instead of putting up a bloody last stand. In other words, he was defeated not by the power of guns and soldiers but by the people's power.

Now let us use this same people's power to prevent looting, vandalism, harassment and other crimes by people who would take advantage of the confusion for their own gain. The attempted looting of Malacanang is a shameful chapter to what otherwise is a glorious achievement.

Let us use people's power to avoid bitterness and recriminations. Loyalist soldiers were persuaded not to attack and to join the reformists not through threats but through kindness, love and brotherhood. They were given good, drinks, and flowers, and kind words. They were not treated as enemies but as brothers. Let us use these same kindness and brotherhood to return our nation back to unity, political stability, and economic recovery.

We feel sad for the soldiers and civilians who died, ironically, so close to the end of the crisis. They died doing their duty and for what they believed in. Let us pray for them and thank God that the toll had not been greater.

BULLETIN Editorial Wishes Success

HK271355 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Feb 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Time for Congratulations"]

[Text] We congratulate new President Corazon C. Aquino on her assumption of the highest office in the land. In the relatively short period of her public life, she has given the impression that she is a leader with a heart. This virtue will be her principal asset in the years to come. It will unify a people torn apart by conflicts and provide her the protection that only her constituents can give her. Thus it has been with the few leaders of the world who truly cared for fellow human beings.

It is heartening to note that she will be assisted by Vice President Salvador Laurel, an experienced legislator and a lawyer. "Doy," too, has a heart. We remember he was the principal proponent of the abolition of capital punishment in the old Senate. The sentiment expressed in that single cause characterizes the man.

What turned out to be a relatively bloodless transition might not have been possible if it were not for the courage of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Gen Fidel V. Ramos. To them and their followers it was a matter of life or death. Their heroism is well known.

Millions of people provided protection to these two men of the military establishment and vindicated the good name of the nation. No more vivid show of unity, determination, and political purpose could have been imagined.

The episode was witnessed by the world. If before Filipinos were sometimes subjected to indignities on account of bad publicity of the developments here, we can be sure that others will now learn to treat us with respect. We join the nation in wishing these leaders success.

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PHILIPPINES

REPORTAGE ON PLEDGES OF SUPPORT, CONGRATULATIONS FOR AQUINO

Bureaucrats, Church KBL Support

HK271523 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 27 Feb 86 p 20

[Excerpts] Pledges of support and congratulatory messages continued to pour in for President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino from Filipino diplomats abroad, religious leaders, the KBL, government offices and the business sector.

In Washington, her supporters celebrated her assumption of the presidency by uncorking champagne at the Philippine Embassy on Tuesday as career diplomats promised to take their instructions from her aides.

Philippine Ambassador Rosario G. Manaolo, Consul Mary Jo Bernardo, Agricultural Attaché Ruben Pascual, and the rest of the staff in the Philippine Embassy in Brussels sent congratulations to President Aquino and Vice-President Salvador Laurel. "Your embassy in Brussels awaits your instructions, Madam President Aquino. We are ready to work for the immediate recognition of your government by the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European communities. More power to you," they said.

The Philippine Embassy in Moscow Tuesday also announced it recognizes Mrs Aquino as president. Romeo Fernandez, the embassy's charge d'affaires, said her inauguration rectifies "an injustice done to our people."

Jaime Cardinal Sin and the auxiliary bishops of Manila urged the people to rally behind President Aquino. "Our long journey through the night is over. We see a new day dawning. It was the grace of God which enabled our people to effect a peaceful transition."

But if President Aquino is to steer our nation through the treacherous shoals of political, economic and moral crisis, if she is to put us on the road to national recovery, she needs our support and cooperation, Cardinal Sin said. "Let us give both freely and unstintingly together with her. Let us make the necessary sacrifices and let the spirit of love and solidarity that animated us as we showed the effectiveness of people power animate us even more in the days to come."

Kilusang Bagong Lipunan parliamentary leaders announced yesterday that they would assist the Aquino-Laurel administration by supporting legislative measures needed for the early solution of economic and insurgency problems. Party secretary general Jose Rono, who presided at a party meeting yesterday called KBL members of parliament, governors, city mayors and party chairmen to a caucus at 10 a.m. Monday at the Batasan Speaker's office to discuss details of these legislative measures, KBL spokesman Gualberto Lumauig said.

Rono, former Prime Minister Cesar Virata and Speaker Nicanor Yniguez and other KBL leaders also met with Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday to inform him of the KBL's party stand. The KBL also announced the reorganization of the party down to barangay level to fine tune itself with the reform orientation of the new administration.

Rono called upon all government offices to maintain normal government functions until the reorganization shall have been effected by the new administration.

Three central Luzon governors belonging to the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) also pledged their support to the President. Brig. Gen Isidoro M. de Guzman, commander of the Central Luzon Regional Unified Command (RUC), said the three governors shifted their support as a sign of recognition of her victory and people's support in the last elections. They are Governors Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, Efren Pascual of Bataan and Eduardo Joson of Nueva Ecija.

The officers and employees of the Development Academy of the Philippines also joined the nation in rallying behind President Aquino.

The University of the Philippines [UP] System also extended its congratulations and support to President Aquino. UP President Edgardo J. Angara said the system and campus levels is committed to serve the new government "under freedom, truth and justice." Angara reiterated that the doctors and nurses at the UP-Philippine General Hospital and the UP Diliman Health Service would continue to provide medical assistance.

Chamber of Commerce Backing

HK251333 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Manila, 25 Feb (AFP)--The influential Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Tuesday recognized Corazon Aquino as president of the Philippines and called on the entire business community to rally behind her.

A PCCI statement pledged support to Mrs Aquino "in the massive task of economic recovery."

Meanwhile, the Central Bank issued a statement saying that Wednesday would be a normal banking day after a four-day closure of banks and financial institutions nationwide.

Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez has made no public statement indicating whether his loyalties are with Mrs Aquino or embattled President Ferdinand Marcos, a bank spokesman said.

Mrs Aquino has set up a special committee especially to deal with the Central Bank, but its head has yet to be named.

Mr Fernandez denied for the third time Tuesday that the bank had been involved in printing extra money, as alleged by opposition newspapers which have displayed photographs of bills with identical serial numbers.

The newspapers implied that the bank was trying to hide large campaign expenditures by Mr Marcos drawn from International Monetary Fund (IMF) credits to the country.

There was no news by late Tuesday on whether a new arrival date has been set for an IMF team whose visit here scheduled for earlier this month was postponed.

In another development, the Central Bank governor announced an increase in interest rates in an effort to mop up liquidity and stop panic dollar buying which sent the peso plummeting to 22.05 to the dollar last week from 19.89 the previous week.

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PHILIPPINES

REPORTAGE ON RAMOS ORDERS, ACTIVITIES IN NEW GOVERNMENT

Denies Report on New PC Chief

HK280631 Quezon City Radio ng Bayan in Tagalog 2145 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Broadcast on 918 KHZ]

[Text] A Philippine News Agency dispatch which earlier said General Prospero Olivas has been named as chief of the Philippine Constabulary [PC] has been denied by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen Fidel Ramos who said no new appointment has been made. Ramos said he is still the PC chief as well as director general of the Integrated National Police [INP]. He confirmed that he still heads both services and has not relinquished the positions. He also said that the appointment of Olivas as head of the PC-INP depends on President Aquino's guidance. Rumors have also been going around that Gen Olivas had tendered his resignation.

Renames Aviation Security Command

HK280608 Quezon City DZFM Radio in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Broadcast on 6170 KHZ]

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fidel Ramos today approved the renaming of the Aviation Security Command [Avsecom] to Philippine Air Force Security Command. The renaming of the unit was recommended by Brigadier Augustus Paiso, acting commanding general of the Avsecom. Jun Francisco reports:

[Begin recording] The erstwhile Avsecom was formally activated on 24 May 1976, pursuant to Letter of Instruction 376. It was made a specified command of the Armed Forces on 31 May 1976, with Major General Mariano Castaneda as its first commanding general.

The Avsecom is primarily tasked to secure civil aviation in the country and to implement adequate measures to secure the continued operations of civil aviation in the light of the increasing worldwide air offensive. It is also tasked to secure all airports in the country against offensive and terroristic acts prejudicial to civil aviation. [end recording]

Urges People To Pay Taxes

BK260605 Manila PNA in English 0552 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Manila, 26 Feb (PNA)--Filipinos today were urged to pay their taxes to support the day-to-day activities of the government of President Corazon C. Aquino.

General Fidel V. Ramos, newly-installed chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), enjoined all Filipinos to pay their taxes in a statement aired over new Channel 4 Tuesday night.

General Ramos stressed the people should pay taxes so as not to disrupt day-to-day government activities, especially now that the country has a new president.

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PHILIPPINES

KYODO VIEWS COMPOSITION OF AQUINO CABINET

OW270249 Tokyo KYODO in English 0217 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Analysis: "Aquino Balances Cabinet Forces--by Barry Riddell--KYODO headline]

[Text] Manila, 27 Feb (KYODO)--President Corazon Aquino's new cabinet appears carefully balanced between her trusted aides and those of Vice President Salvador Laurel, with some independents.

Mrs. Aquino, who added more names Wednesday, brought in her personal legal adviser, Joker Arroyo, a prominent human rights trial lawyer. She named him as executive secretary, a post known as "little president" in previous Philippine administrations until Marcos abolished it recently. Previous incumbents used this "coordinator" role to keep a finger in almost every government activity.

Aquino also included two close personal family friends--Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel as minister of local governments and community development, and Ramon Mitra as minister of agriculture and fisheries.

Each has its own power base as an elected member of the national assembly, but in addition had early friendship ties with Aquino and her late husband, Benigno.

A newcomer closely associated with Aquino is Jaime Ongpin, president of a mining firm, as minister of finance. He has the sensitive job of restructuring the nation's chaotic domestic and foreign overdrafts.

A younger brother of outgoing minister of trade and industry Roberto Ongpin, he has no political background. However, he is the only person who Aquino has ever publicly named as a close adviser.

Balancing these are three key jobs for the Laurel side--foreign affairs, natural resources and the very influential task of responsibility for government reorganization.

Laurel himself received the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, other cabinet appointees think it will be only a temporary addition to his titles of vice president and prime minister.

Under the constitution, the prime minister must be elected by the national assembly on nomination of the president. Laurel's actual legal power must therefore wait until Aquino has enough votes in the 200-seat national assembly.

A few weeks ago, the lineup was roughly 150 Marcos supporters and about 50 oppositionists, but masses of defections to Mrs. Aquino are expected.

In addition, the vice president has no real function unless the president is incapacitated, outside of occasional specific tasks and ceremonial duties.

Observers say that Laurel insisted on the foreign minister's post so he could wield actual power while awaiting election as prime minister. He could also be holding the Foreign Ministry post open for someone of his choice.

Meanwhile, Laurel has assigned day-to-day executive management of his new ministry to career diplomat Jose Inglis, considered the nation's most experienced diplomat. Inglis was deputy foreign minister under Marcos until retirement about two years ago.

Supporting Laurel in the cabinet is former Marcos executive secretary and former trade minister Ernesto Maceda, who left the Marcos administration in 1970 to be elected as a senator. He was appointed Mrs Aquino's minister of natural resources, with jurisdiction over mining, forestry and lands.

The third Laurel aide to get cabinet rank was Luis Villafuerte, Marcos' minister of trade and industry from 1980 to 1982, when Marcos dropped him. Villafuerte became an opposition assemblyman in 1984 and delivered a big victory to Aquino in his bicol region in the 7 February presidential polls.

Villafuerte gets the job of minister for government reorganization with its vast potential influence, as he must rationalize government-owned corporations either through sale to the private sector, merger or abolition.

The key post of minister of justice goes to Nepthali Gonzales, an elected assemblyman who was a member of the lower house prior to its abolition when Marcos declared martial law in 1972.

He is a vice president of Laurel's United National Democratic Organization (UNIDO), but also an Aquino aide.

Another cabinet-level post, called commission on good government, was created for veteran senator Jovito Salonga, who would possibly have been a potential presidential candidate had Aquino not run.

His tasks will include investigating whether officials of the Marcos administration accumulated funds abroad, and recommending if action should be taken against them.

He must also investigate last year's controversial trial following the assassination of Mrs. Aquino's husband.

Other relatively non-aligned cabinet members are education secretary Lourdes Quisumbing, president of Maryknoll College, the nation's top school for women, and Budget Minister Bert Romulo, a UNIDO assemblyman.

A newcomer is Information Minister Teodoro Locsin, a former journalist who emerged as an Aquino speechwriter during the election campaign.

Aquino also named lawyer Rene Saguisag to the cabinet as presidential spokesman. He had a high profile during the election campaign.

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Central Bank Governor Jose "Jobo" Fernandez retain their posts from the Marcos administration, while Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos received his fourth star and promotion from deputy to chief of staff of the armed forces.

The Ministry of Tourism went to Jose Gonzales, the first prominent businessman to openly oppose Marcos, and who thereafter virtually lost his large conglomerate, Mondragon Industries.

Some other posts, such as health, are yet to be filled.

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PHILIPPINES

BULLETIN TODAY COLUMNIST REVIEWS WEEK OF 'MIRACLES'

HK261409 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 26 Feb 86 pp 4, 10

[Column by Jesus Bigornia: "A Whole Week of Unending 'Miracles'"]

[Text] It has been a week of unending miracles in the Philippines. Since Saturday evening when Jaime Cardinal Sin galvanized "people power" into action in defense of a puny revolution triggered by the defection of two top military aides of the president, this country has not ceased to be amazed by displays of kinship, courage, dedication and sacrifice, daily occurrences on a broad strip of territory along Epifanio de los Santos Ave. [Edsa] with Camps Aguinaldo and Crame as its center.

"People power" has above all served as midwife in the delivery of a new government, headed by Mrs. Corazon "Cory" Aquino and former Batangas Senator Salvador "Doy" Laurel, adjudged by the people to have been cheated in the 7 February special presidential elections. Temporarily deprived of the use of Malacanang where holdout President Marcos was due to be sworn into office for another six-year term, the Aquino government was launched in ceremonies yesterday on the grounds of Club Filipino "for security reasons."

Indelible images of acts of moral courage have become ordinary around Camp Crame where Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Ge. Fidel V. Ramos have held out since they renounced their oaths of allegiance to the leadership of President Marcos. Massed millions of unarmed citizens have stood their ground in preventing attempts at armored assault on the Enrile-Ramos headquarters. One such picture will long remain in the memory of those who watched an elderly woman peacefully munching a mouthful of betel nut squatting before an onrushing armored personnel carrier and asking the vehicle's driver in her native Ilocano, "Son, where are you going?" and effectively stopping an attacking column of Marcos "loyalists."

Had anyone asserted that Filipinos would fraternize, let alone shield soldiers from threatened danger, a grizzled political observer says: "I would have laughed fit to be tied." But that is exactly what the massed crowds in and around Crame and vital communications facilities in Cubao are doing. Day in and day out, their presence in huge numbers has prevented the government forces still under the command of President Marcos and his armed forces chief of staff General Fabian C. Ver from assaulting Crame. A bloodbath such as was contemplated would provoke nationwide execration of an administration already flawed by steady defections to the rebel camp.

If the continuous round-the-clock vigils are fraught with unpredictable dangers, participants in the mass action show no anxiety. On the contrary, the atmosphere in and around Camp Crame--except on a few occasions when threatened half-heartedly by "loyalist troops"--has remained festive. Food packages continued to pour in for the soldiers and participants whose lunch boxes have become empty. Nighttime scenes at possible points of entry into Crame had many a poignant highlight. Entire families bedding for the night on spread out cartons and newspapers on pavement and sidewalks proved the Filipino is willing to stand up to unprecedented rigors in defense of their rights.

But the main achievement of this mass action which has gripped the nation and held the imagination of the entire world is that it has polarized a people speaking over a hundred dialects with as many customs and mores into one nation. A four-kilometer walk on Edsa through the throngs of vigilantes will convince even the most skeptical observer that there are no Ilocanos, no Pampangos, no Visayans, no Bicolanos, no Taugsogs, no Maguindanaos, no Maranaws, no Igorots, no Pangasinenses when people are triggered into action by a desire for freedom and restoration of rights.

To understand how "people power" was unleashed to protect the then embattled Enrile-Ramos camp, the role played by Radio Veritas, the church-owned radio station must be recounted. Radio Veritas, by its consistently critical reports on the questioned "victory" of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) of the President, brainwashed its broad audience into doubting every government announcement. Playing the Protestant hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" every other five minutes also fired the masses' antagonism toward the Marcos administration.

So, when the vicar of the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines, Cardinal Sin, urged the people to pour into the streets around Camp Aguinaldo (then occupied by Minister Enrile) and Camp Crame (headquarters of General Ramos) the people were already fired up to stop any government assault on the defectors. Since then, men and women of "the cloth" have remained in the forefront of resistance to government attempts to assault the seat of the "provisional" government. The Church has demonstrated an awesome power to generate "people power."

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PHILIPPINES

REPORTAGE ON AQUINO GOVERNMENT, CHALLENGES

Energy Ministry May be Scrapped

HK010818 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 28 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] The Ministry of Energy (MOE) may be abolished and some of its functions may be taken over by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) now headed by Ernesto Macea.

Macea, who was appointed by President Corazon C. Aquino to his fourth cabinet position (three of which he held under former President Marcos), yesterday told MNR employes that "I hope 50 percent of its (MOE's functions) will be given back to us."

In a press conference after he formally took over from former Natural Resources Minister Rudolfo del Rosario, Macea announced that the functions of the Bureau of Energy Development (BED) and the National Coal Corp. (NCC), both under the MOE, as well as certain functions related to environmental matters, anti-pollution and land use formerly performed by the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS) will be given to the MNR.

The dismantling of MOE has been recommended by industry leaders to President Aquino, sources said.

Sources also disclosed that the position of energy minister has been offered to Shell Philippines president Cesar Buenaventura. However, Buenaventura reportedly declined the offer saying that the MOE is no longer necessary.

Velasco Letter

As early as June 1984, former Energy Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco, suggested to Marcos the abolition of the MOE since a number of major energy projects have already been completed.

In his letter, Velasco said the activities of the MOE may slow down in the coming years in view of the government's financial difficulties.

He said that until the government's finances stabilize, the major task of the MOE will be limited to housekeeping and consolidation. These primarily involve maintaining management control over the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) and the National Power Corp. (NPC).

He added that the work of the MOE has been reduced to the awarding of service contracts and the licensing as well as regulation of energy retail outlets.

In his letter, Velasco also recommended the transfer of the ministry's functions to any of these agencies: the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC), the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), the National Science and Technology Authority (NSTA) or the MNR.

Velasco favored the transfer of energy functions to the MNR, noting that this would be in line with the international practice of putting energy under the charge of the ministry handling natural resources.

Sources said the abolition of the MOE will not result in the dislocation of the ministry's personnel as they can be absorbed by related agencies such as PNOC, NPC, or even the MNR.

Priority

Maceda told reporters after his takeover that "offhand I cannot give any specific policies, but right now priority will be given to forestry."

He added that the ministry will provide "more positive programs."

While in the past, the ministry's trust was concentrated on mining and logging, it will give emphasis now on minor forest products such as rattan, buri, anahaw and others to support cottage industries, Maceda said.

He said he will also have to talk to Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen Fidel Ramos about the problem of illegal logging.

"I have received reports that large-scale illegal logging is now taking place in Nueva Ecija, Quirino and Quezon," Maceda said.

According to the new minister, illegal loggers in these provinces are taking advantage of the hiatus in national leadership as the new government takes over from the old, but "the new military could be of great help" in solving the problem of illegal logging.

Reorganization

Asked about his plans for MNR's reorganization, Maceda said an evaluation of the present staff will be made.

Most of the MNR's officials have already tendered their resignations to President Aquino. Macea pointed out that "the decision (to accept these resignations or not) will not depend on their political stance in the past."

"I think the present administrative setup is okay," Macea said, adding that only dishonest officials will be replaced. "We have to look at their track record: if they are now very wealthy they have to go," Macea said.

He also said the deputy ministers who will assist him will be appointed by President Aquino. "I can easily work with anybody," he said.

Macea was a former senator from the Nacionalista Party. He held three cabinet positions under the Marcos administration. He was Marcos's executive secretary from 1969 to 1970 while concurrently holding the position of secretary for the Presidential Arm for Community Development (PACD). Before he left the Marcos administration in the early 1970s, he was secretary for commerce and industry.

Meanwhile, a certain Gerardo Timbol barged into the office of Del Rosario early yesterday morning, announcing that he was the advance party of Macea for the takeover ceremonies. He introduced himself as a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines and said he will take over the post of Bureau of Mines and Geosciences (BMG) director Juanito Fernandez.

Further Details

HK281231 Quezon City DZFM Radio in English 1100 GMT 28 Feb 86.

[Broadcast on 6167.3 KHz]

[Text] Natural Resources Minister Ernesto Macea says his ministry was not taking over soon, to-be-abolished, the ministries of human settlements, energy, and the Philippine National Oil Company [PNOC]. [as heard] But he added the ministry was instead absorbing certain offices. He said his ministry was merely assuming control of the energy ministry's energy-development offices and [words indistinct].

Information Ministry Not Needed

HK010639 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 28 Feb 86 pp 4, 24

["My Cup of Tea" column by Ninez Cahco-Olivares: "No Trespassing"]

[Text] In the last few years of the Marcos regime, the print media (those owned by individuals not beholded to Mr Marcos), more than the electronic media, took great risks to fight doggedly and fiercely for freedom of the press. Their efforts paid off. That faction of the press, even before the downfall of Mr Marcos, was able to free itself. And generally taking on an adversarial role, this press functioned as a fairly effective watchdog of government.

This is not to say that the electronic media had no desire to be free. They did, but they had less chances at freeing themselves since these media, aside from being in the hands of the friends and relatives of Mr Marcos, were directly taking broadcast instructions from the Palace through the Office of Media Affairs, which actually operated among others, a government television station--geared almost solely for Marcos propaganda--and a news agency mouthing the official line. No one in the working press was under any illusion that the government media were there to serve, by the way of information dissemination, the needs of the citizenry or even of the nation. Journalists and broadcasters knew that these entities were there to serve the personal propaganda needs of Mr Marcos.

And even up to the very last minute before the takeover, the electronic media were still disseminating distorted news and information in a futile attempt to lull the Filipinos into believing that Mr Marcos was in full control of the situation. It was broadcast media at their worst, considering that they intentionally created confusion among the unarmed Filipinos then locked in a do-or-die revolution to free themselves. These propagandists, whether forced or of their own free will, had made a decision. And they had decided to stay put and continue to serve Mr Marcos instead of the people and the country.

Filipinos now know how important it is for them to have a free and independent media. They also know now how a media can be used and abused by a regime. If there is anything that a free and independent press will resist and resist vigorously, it is an information ministry, because this smacks too much of media control and dictatorship. And if there is anything that the independent press will fight against, it is the notoriously suffocating government control of the air lanes.

To destroy the vestiges of media control, President Aquino could have appointed a press secretary. But she chose instead to appoint an information minister. Is the new administration slowly slipping into the ways of the old order? The justification for the continuation of an information minister--as I heard it on television from a newly appointed cabinet minister --is that there is an urgent need to disseminate true and accurate information to the people since they have been continuously misinformed and disinforme during the long reign of Mr Marcos. Do I take this to mean that the media machinery of the discredited regime will still be alive and thriving under this new leadership?

It may be a fatal mistake for the new administration, which has promised the people sweeping reforms, to retain a television and radio network and a news agency, even for the noble purpose of disseminating "true and accurate" news and information. No government administration, democratic or otherwise, ever disseminates true and accurate information. All governments desire a positive media image for themselves and all governments will try to manipulate and control the media to project themselves in a better light.

With a government media the new information minister, especially with more or less the same individuals of the past regime working there, it may not be long before Filipinos get their daily diet of the "great achievements" of the administration under the leadership of Mrs Aquino. And in no time at all, the country, the nation and the people will be back to square one.

There is absolutely no need for the Aquino administration to have a government media. A free and privately-owned media in search of balanced information will always air the side of government. The administration will no doubt have easy access to time slots for say, presidential press conferences and certain presidential activities. Information dissemination can be carried out more effectively and credibly by the responsible and independent media without government constraints. Let not the new government think that a free and responsible media cannot do the job right, and well, lest it succumb to the heresy that government alone knows what is good for the media and the nation, lest it succumb to the temptation of imposing its will on a separate and independent estate. The fourth estate, as we all know, is neither the domain nor the business of government.

During the regime of Mr Marcos, the media, which had before been under different owners, were confiscated. What had once been owners, were confiscated. What had once been owned privately became government property. Now that a new government--whether it is called revolutionary, de facto, de jure, or by any other name--is installed, certain problems have surfaced. Do the existing media now go back to their former media lords who will again be powerful forces in society or will media ownership now be restricted and regulated by government? Will the new government persist in owing television and radio stations and a news agency?

The Filipino people fought valiantly for change and for a new order. Filipinos did not risk life and limb merely to have a change of faces. I am aware that we must necessarily give the new government time to make these changes and time for the new administration to prove itself. But in the meantime, let us not slip back slowly to the pernicious ways of the old order, where controls in the media all but killed the credibility, the initiative, the independence and the integrity of media practitioners.

Choice of CB Head Questioned

HK281508 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 28 Feb 86 p 5

["Bottom Line" column by Gaby Manalac: "So Soon"]

[Text] As quickly as it had engulfed the nation, the euphoria is fading. It is back to business and the hard facts of life. The economy is in crisis. Fortunately, the new government has provided a substantial dose of optimism, but that is only the beginning.

Last Wednesday, President Aquino announced the appointment of some members of her provisional cabinet. It was her first major step toward fulfilling the people's will for a change from the Marcos machinery that brought the economy and the country to ruin.

The new cabinet reflects a change in some faces but reimposes as well personalities identified with traditional concepts and practices that have contributed to the misery which we are now experiencing.

On the whole, however, the more conservative attitude would be to give the new team a chance to perform before hurling rickbats at it. Agriculture Minister Ramon Mitra told a TV audience that at this point, the public can only measure the potential capacities of the team members against their track records.

That is a reasonable assumption. But precisely because of that, I believe that the track record of some appointees should be evaluated and openly discussed. Foremost among the questionable track records that needs immediate and serious dissection is that of Central Bank [CB] Gov Jose B. Fernandez.

I have always maintained that his track record as a commercial banker has been great, but his performance as a central banker has been dismal, and has contributed to a financial dislocation, the likes of which this country has never seen, but may once again see.

The infamous jobo bills have probably been the principal reason why productivity has vaporized and why in the final analysis our gross national product has plunged to negative depths.

I frankly cannot understand why Fernandez resorts only to a roller coaster type of managing interest rates which one day can stand at 16 percent, zip up to 19 percent the next, and just irrationally blast off to 30 percent a few days later. The financial holocaust of the year before when rates shizzed past 45 percent and when more than 40 banks folded up still has the business community in a cold sweat.

And now comes Fernandez again resorting to the same routine ostensibly to once more mop up excessive liquidity and releave the strength of the peso vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar. This seems to be the only method that Fernandez can think of whenever inflationary pressures begin to build up and when the exchange rate weakens.

I suppose it never occurred to Fernandez that the rapid deterioration of the peso prior to and after the elections was precipitated by political uncertainty and not so much by excessive liquidity. I would have thought that even without excessive liquidity pressures, that rate would have deteriorated anyway because there no longer was any confidence in the stability of the Marcos. [as published]

Aggravating that, of course, was a P9 billion increase in money supply, according to official admission, over a period of less than 60 days for government election spending and that only exacerbated loss of confidence in the peso. However, it seems that substantially more than just P9 billion was plowed into the money stream to support KBL election spending, despite sanctimonious protestations by Fernandez that unwarranted releases to the national government would in effect be only over his dead body.

Not only was P9 billion freely dispensed but there was even un unestimated amount of genuine bills with similar serial numbers floating around, which indicated that there was absolutely no tial does of optimism, but that the period. [sentence as published] I do not think anyone knows what the money supply is.

Add to this the two-day bank holiday when the people's revolution needed funding so badly to carry on its bloodless battle to oust an illegitimate president whom Fernandez was heard to have predicted would easily win by at least 1.5 million votes, and you have a monetary vacuum.

If the new people's government is speaking of track records, the CB governor's performance must be publicly scrutinized. The thrust of economic recovery will revolve around some financial and monetary management and employment and real wages will rise to fall according to how skillfully and imaginatively they are managed.

Mitra said that the retention of Fernandez was made on the insistence of Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin. If Ongpin's endorsement reflects his agreement with the monetary concepts and practices of Fernandez, I am afraid President Aquino will be like a lamb led to slaughter.

Mrs Aquino is bound to make mistakes in the course of her presidency. But I did not expect one so serious so soon.

New Ministers Start Reform Program

HK010803 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 28 Feb 86 p 23

[Text] The government of President Corazon Aquino yesterday started work on its first 10 days which as she promised in her campaign, would be devoted to dismantling the "pyramid of disgrace" inherited from the ousted Ferdinand Marcos.

MP Luis Villafuerte, head of the newly-created Presidential Commission on Government Reorganization, said the impending reorganization would not be motivated by a "division of spoils" but by the merit system.

In a television interview, Villafuerte stressed that the impending reorganization of government, which might take two months to accomplish, will "uphold the merit system and the security of tenure."

"We should not go back to the mistakes of the past. We should avoid all the pitfalls that have caused the ruin of the previous administration," he said.

Villafuerte said that those who have merit will stay, but added that those who were employed through the backing of cronies must either upgrade their skills or find work elsewhere. He also said that the agencies that perform redundant or overlapping functions may be abolished.

The fate of some government offices that have been largely instrumental in propping up the Marcos regime, such as the Office of Media Affairs, Metro Manila Commission and the Ministry of Human Settlements, remain uncertain.

"We will study very carefully what went right and what went wrong. Conceptually, there is strong demand to give autonomy to local units under the commission, but until things have been carefully studied, I am not giving any judgment," he said.

With regards to non-performing assets of government, Villafuerte said they have to be audited thoroughly and written off if need be.

For his part, MP Aquilino Pimentel (PDP-LABAN, Cagayan de Oro) issued his first directive as minister for local governments by appointing lawyer Jejomer Binay as officer-in-charge of Makati. Sources at Pimentel's office indicated that the new designations are among the new ones prepared and will be released soon.

Binay was named to replace Mayor Nemesio Yabut who died 26 February. A human rights lawyer, Binay was President Aquino's campaign coordinator for Makati.

His appointment though could be questioned since this violates Section 28 of the Local Government Code which says the vice-mayor automatically assumes the mayoral post upon the mayor's death.

BUSINESS DAY tried to contact Vice Mayor Johnny Wilson but to no avail.

Pimentel's directive departs from the hands-off policy exercised by former minister Jose Rono with regards to Metro Manila affairs, viewed by others as an indication that he is ready to assume jurisdiction over cities and municipalities in the National Capital Region.

Meanwhile, lawyer Joey Lina who was appointed coordinator between the Office of the President and the Metro Manila Commission [MMC] met yesterday with Metro Manila Vice-Governor Ismael Mathay Jr. and other MMC officials. Lina informed them that the fate of the commission will be known only after the completion of an ongoing study.

As input to the study, MMC officials gave Lina a copy of a confidential University of the Philippines study which recommended among other things, the reorganization of MMC into a purely coordinative body and the establishment of a metropolitan legislative assembly.

In Pampanga, Pimental issued a memorandum to all chiefs of national and provincial offices, appointing former Constitutional Convention Delegate Bren Z. Guiao as governor. Guiao succeeded Estelito Mendoza who has left the country.

Guiao ran for assemblyman under the Unido-PDP-LABAN banner in the 1984 election and has a pending pre-proclamation protest with the Supreme Court against former Public Highways Deputy Minister Aber P. Canlas.

In Camarines Norte, Pimentel yesterday designated Renato M. Unico as acting governor. Erstwhile Governor Pajarillo has over-extended his official leave, having been away since December last year.

Unico used to work with Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile as deputy and at times, assistant secretary of defense for engineering, logistics, and comptrollership.

For his part, newly appointed Natural Resources Minister Ernesto Maceda said he is giving top priority to reforestation as a major program of his ministry.

At the same time, he warned illegal loggers to stop or regulate the cutting of trees as a matter of patriotic gesture in these difficult times or else face severe prosecution.

Maceda's warning, aired in a television interview, came amid reports that some people are stepping up the cutting of trees in the forests of Nueva Ecija, Kalinga-Apayao, Cagayan and other parts of Northern Luzon, apparently to take advantage of the present confusion.

Maceda expressed unhappiness over the fact that the people who are financing these logging operations are mostly aliens or naturalized Filipinos.

Maceda promised to look into the matter as soon as he assumes office and vowed that if it is proven that these people are violating the law, "we will not hesitate to prosecute them."

The reforestation program will be partly directed to planting wild forest products like rattan, buri, anahaw and the like to help the cottage industry.

Education Minister Sets Priorities

HK010739 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 28 Feb 86 p 23

[Text] Education Minister Lourdes R. Quisumbing, former president of Maryknoll College and vice-president of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), yesterday said her first priority is to look into the plight of the underpaid and overworked public school teacher. "I will not just focus on material welfare but also see to it that they continue to get professional development," Dr Quisumbing said.

She said the educational "atmosphere" should be changed from a bureaucratic classrooms and textbooks orientation to a broader one wherein teaching will be "a commitment, a mission."

"The problems of the teachers have been piling up for the past years, that it is impossible to solve them in a short time. I hope the teachers would understand and be patient," Dr Quisumbing said.

She said she also wants to increase the education budget "substantially" to the level enjoyed during the pre-martial law years. She declined to elaborate on her ideas about pressing education issues, like the 00-million Program for Decentralized Education Development (PRODED) which expires this year, the bilingual education policy and tuition fees.

"I still need to consult with people. There's so much to learn," she said.

Dr Quisumbing was educated in three Catholic schools: St. Theresa's College Manila, University of San Carlos-Cebu City and the University of Santo Tomas. This, plus her stint with CEAP, helped shape her guiding principle of "moral integrity."

"One can't be credible unless he is morally upright," she said. President Aquino stands for "moral leadership," she said, so the education minister should help in the "moral rejuvenation of the nation."

Maryknoll students interviews by BUSINESS DAY confirmed that their president is well-liked in the campus because of her sincerity and "motherly image."

"She's very gentle and soft-spoken. But when it comes to making decisions, she is very firm," said a Maryknoll high school graduate Lariza Golez.

For his part, former Education Minister Jaime C. Laya said Dr Quisumbing is a "good choice" for the post. "She brings with her a lifetime experience in education," Laya said.

Provinces Hopeful Over Aquino Cabinet

HK010840 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Feb 86 p 3

[Text] People in the provinces generally welcomed yesterday President Corazon Aquino's appointments to her cabinet, but behind this was a common apprehension among government employees regarding their jobs.

These employees work in regional offices of the various government agencies headed by a regional director, usually a political appointee.

In Cebu City, Cebuanos had a reason to rejoice. A Cebuana, Dr Lourdes Quisumbing, has been appointed minister of education.

Nuns at the St. Theresa's College in Cebu said she will bring relevance and substantial changes in the country's educational system.

Many government employees, however, expressed fears the new ministers might demand the resignation of the rank and file to effect changes in the ministries.

The Redemptorist community called on President Aquino to use her authority to bring about the release of Fr. Rudy Romano.

On the whole, however, many expect Aquino's official family to help the new president in her job of solving the country's economic problems.

In Baguio, a lot of people still have to make up their minds regarding the new Cabinet. Jose Ilagan, editor of a local weekly, and young lawyer Geronimo Evangelista Jr. said, "The choice is sound."

An employee of the ministry of human settlements, who refused identity, said "a minister of human settlements has not yet been announced, so I could not comment." However, she expressed hopes that ordinary employees will be retained in their jobs.

In San Fernando, La Union, government offices were operating normally but the atmosphere is subdued regional directors and other top officials are either out of the office or out of town, presumably ascertaining the fate of their jobs.

The regional office of media affairs employees were relieved when Teodoro Locsin Jr. was appointed information minister.

"Locsin, they said, is a perfect choice--someone who knows about publishing and the media."

The town is also rife with rumors that the office of media affairs and other government media organizations will be abolished.

In Tacloban City, the so-called "Imelda country," top-ranking officials headed by Mayor Abdula Cinco and MP Artemio Mate asked Leytenos to bury the hatchet and political animosities and return to normal activities.

Both also urged the citizenry to extend full cooperation for the new government under President Aquino.

People in the campus town of Dumaguete city reacted favorably to the new appointments.

Ten Silliman University students said the new cabinet members should consult the people first before implementing national policies.

Workers in the different ministries appealed to the new ministers for them to retain their jobs. They asked, however, for the dismissal of inefficient employees.

Two Tausug students said Mr Aquino should take steps to allow Nur Misuari of the Moro National Liberation Front to come back to the country.

Another college student said renegade priest Conrado Balweg be allowed to come down from the hills and Fr. Edicio dela Torre to be released from the stockade.

In Bacolod, where "peoples power" was welcomed with merriment, people expressed hope that the administration will do its best to improve the welfare of the people.

"We just hope and pray that President Aquino will fulfill her promise of solving the problems of poverty and unemployment," said teacher Corazon Yap.

Civic leaders in Legaspi City were unanimous in expressing full support to the newly-installed administration.

Legaspi Jaycees President Rannie Imperial said the appointment of the new cabinet ministers is timely during a transition period, so the president can institute the necessary changes.

"We know that whoever she chose to work with her were chosen on the basis of their capabilities," Imperial added.

Legaspi "Dawani" Jaycees President Lilibeth Alcazar commented: "We are in support to President Aquino's appointments, not only because she has assigned two Bicolanos as members of the cabinet, but because we think they are capable of sitting and working with her."

In San Fernando, Pampanga, across section of Pampanga residents hailed the composition of the new cabinet except the designation of Namfrel chairman Jose Concepcion.

Most individuals interviewd by PNA think that Concepcion should have declined the appointment as minister of trade and industry. Housewife Gloria Carreon said Concepcion should maintain the neutrality of the Namfrel by not accepting the appointment.

Those interviewed hailed the new cabinet, describing Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales as a capable and honest man.

Rev Rolando Velasco of the Methodist Church and Jose Reyes, publisher of the weekly PAMPANGA TIMES said former Sen Jovito Salonga as the "best man" to head the presidential commission on good government.

Regional directores, on the other hand, said it is now the prerogative of the newly-appointed ministers to select their respective regional officials but expressed hope that lower career officials and employees would not be relieved.

Several other Pampangos expressed hope that President Aquino give priority in looking for ways of lowering prices of prime commodities.

In Tagbilaran City, Mayor Jose Ma Rocha pledged the cooperation of the political leadership of the city to the new regime.

Now that the question of national leadership has been finally resolved, the political leadership of Tagbilaran City to a man, while still in the service, is committing its cooperation," Rocha said in a statement.

Back north, in Dagupan City, about 10,000 students paraded around the city to welcome the new government administration. They flashed the "LABAN" sign while yellow confetti rained down from buildings and motorists blared their horns.

Revamping of Military Continues

HK010254 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Feb 86 p 1, 10

[Article by Jose De Vera]

[Text] Gen Fidel V. Ramos, chief of staff of the new armed forces, ordered yesterday additional changes in key positions as part of the AFP revamp.

He named Brig Gen Ramon E. Montano, head of the Narcotics Command, as chief of the PC Metrocom and director of the Metropolitan Police Force (MPF). Vice Brig Gen Victor Natividad.

Ramos also designated Col Maximo Vijar, member of the corps of professors in the Philippine Military Academy, as PMA Superintendent. Vijar replaced Brig Gen Jose Ma Zumel who has been listed as a Marcos "loyalist."

For the first time yesterday, it was disclosed that before the 700 PMA cadets and the 70 officers and men announced their support for Ramos and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, Zumel left the academy for an unknown destination.

The explanation was that he was secretly making arrangements for joining the Enrile-Ramos group.

But an unimpeachable source close to Ramos, said that Zumel, a pilot, was allegedly trying to join a PAF contingent determined to either strafe or bomb Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame.

The sudden defection of the PAF fighter wing and the assumption of command of their air force by Brig Gen Ramon Farolan, however, frustrated Zumel's plan, the source said.

Gen Fidel Ramos, chief of staff of the new armed forces, has activated an office in Camp Crame to process "Marcos loyalists who wish to rejoin the military.

According to Brig Gen Jacino Galang, new deputy chief of staff, the processing center" is located on the ground floor of the PC INP headquarters in Camp Crame. All "strugglers" are requested to register at the center for processing, Galang said.

At the same time, commanders of subordinate units of the four major services were ordered to make a physical inventory of their men to determine who had left their outfits and joined the loyalist.

The field commanders were also ordered to regroup, consolidate their scattered units and "stay put" in their stations, Galang said.

He said the "red alert" status of the military specially in Metro Manila, remains. He said that while the AFP "is on top of the situation," Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Ramos enjoined the military not to relax their vigilance.

Meanwhile, 2nd class Cadet Robert Luceno who went on absence without leave from the Philippine Military Academy last 13 February, showed up in Camp Crame and joined the security group that has been securing the camp during the past few days.

Correcting what he called erroneous reports, Ramos announced he remains concurrent chief of constabulary and director general of the Integrated National Police. Earlier reports said Maj Gen Prospero A. Olivas had replaced Ramos.

However, it was explained that before leaving the country, former President Marcos named Olivas, then PC Metrocom chief and director of the Metropolitan Police Force, as PC-INP chief.

Commodore Serapio Martillano formally assumed post of flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy, Wednesday, replacing newly promoted Rear Admiral Brillante C. Ochoco who took over command only last 5 December.

Martillano was handed the symbolic command flag after preparations by Navy officers at the Navy headquarters on Roxas Blv. in Manila. No mediamen were present.

Martillano, who was deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and logistics command head at the General Headquarters, was previously one of the strongest candidates to replace former navy chief Rear Admiral Simeon M. Alejandro Ochoco who was picked to head the Navy after former AFP chief of staff Gen Fabian C. Ver recommended him to ex-President Marcos.

Martillano was the first navy officer who signified intention last Monday to join the Enrile group. The second was Commodore Tagumpay Jardinwano, commanding officer of the Naval Defense Force.

At the navy headquarters, yellow ribbons were seen for the first time inside the camp while officers and men under the newly designated navy chief celebrated the change of command.

Martillano is a graduate of King's Point Academy in Indiana, USA. He belonged to class '53 and was previously assigned aboard landing Ship Tank 32.

Meanwhile, Capt Carlito Cunanan took over command of the Philippine Coast Guard right after Martillano assumed office at the Navy. Cunanan replaced Commodore Liberato Lazo as commandant of the Coast Guard. He was formerly assigned at the general headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo when he was appointed Coast Guard head.

Other Navy commanders are expected to be changed this week "until normal operations resume in the Navy." It was reported that all officers would be holding consecutive meetings until next week "to put everything in order."

Navy officials refused to give details on this and did not give backgrounds on other appointed heads of navy offices.

"Equal Justice for All" Pledge

HK010405 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Feb 86 pp 1, 10

[Article by Rey G. Panalign]

[Text] Justice Minister Nptali Gonzales pledged yesterday equal justice for all, saying that compartmentalized justice has no place in the Aquino administration.

In a meeting with ministry officials and employees a day after his appointment by President Aquino, Gonzales said, "The new leadership is committed to respect the dignity and worth of the Filipino people."

He said he will start working officially on Monday. He asked all heads of offices to submit briefing materials on the functions of all the agencies under the ministry.

Gonzales said he is looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the ministry's officials and employees.

He said it will be his and the administration's policy "to deal with officials and employees without favor or discrimination and that what counts most would be merit in the service."

The new minister was introduced by Justice Deputy Minister Reynato Puno during an impromptu program held at the ministry's quadrangle.

A constitutionalist and a public law expert, Gonzales will confer with the ministry's directors, commissioners, administrators, and heads of offices on Monday.

The agencies under the ministry are Citizens Legal Assistance Office, Bureau of Prisons, Probation Administration, Commission on Immigration and Deportation, National Bureau of Investigation, National Land Titles and Deeds Registration Administration, Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems, Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, Office of the Solicitor General, Board of Pardons and Parole, and the National Prosecution Service.

Governor of Pampanga Appointed

HK281657 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Feb 86 pp 1, 5

[Text] President Corazon C. Aquino, through the Ministry of Local Government, yesterday appointed former constitutional convention delegate Bren Z. Guiao as governor of Pampanga. Guiao will succeed former Pampanga Gov. Estelito Mendoza who has reportedly left the country.

In a memorandum to all chiefs of national and provincial offices, local government Minister Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. said that Guiao has the "full power to discharge the duties vested in that office as defined by law."

Guiao ran for assemblyman under the UNIDO-PDP-LABAN [United Nationalist Democratic Organization-Philipino Democratic Party-Lakas Ng Bayan] banner in the 1984 election and has a pending preproclamation protest with the Supreme Court against former Public Highways Deputy Minister Aber P. Canlas. It was charged that Canlas' proclamation had been railroaded by the Commission on Elections.

A former newspaperman, Guaio is at present an executive of a leading food company.

Local Government Minister Aqilino Pimentel said yesterday he has appointed Bren Guwao as governor of Pampanga vice former Solicitor General and Justice Minister Estelito Mendoza who also served as governor of Pampanga in the previous administration.

At the same time, Pimentel also announced the replacement of Emilio Caruncho as mayor of Pasig, Metro Manila, by Mario Raymundo.

Pimentel had earlier designated human rights lawyer Jejomar Binay as officer-in-charge of the municipal government of Makati following the death of Mayor Nemesio Yabut Wednesday. Pimental made the designation in a letter addressed to Makati Vice Mayor Johnny Wilson.

Senior Military Assignments Revealed

HK010245 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 28 Feb 86 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] Gen Fidel V. Ramos, AFP chief, yesterday announced additional appointments of officers to key positions in the armed forces.

Brig Gen Antonio Bukban was designated AFP logistics chief; Col Antonio Acot, deputy chief for plans and programs; Col Pedro Juachon, chief of the headquarters service group and commanding officer of the Camp Aguinaldo security force; Col Oscar Florendo, AFP joint staff secretary; Col Cesar Zalamea, chief of the communication and electronics group;

Col Jesus de la Cruz, chief of regional Unified Command 1 and PC-INP Region 1 at Camp Bado Dangwa, La Trinidad, Benguet; Col Orlando Antonio, regional Command 4 chief; Col Jose P Santos, regional Command 7 chief; Brig Gen Mariano Adalem, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division based at Ca-ayan de Oro City; Brig Gen Manuel Ribo, commanding general 5th Infantry Division based in Tarlac; and Brig Gen Ramon Montano chief of the PC Metro-com and Metropolitan Police Force.

These appointments are temporary.

Maj Cresencio Maralit was designated chief of the PC public information office at Camp Crame.

Mayor Says Malacanang Now 'Freedom Park'

BK270925 Manila PNA in English 0858 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Manila, 27 Feb (PNA)--Malacanang, a sprawling area housing the once fabulous and heavily-guarded palace of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos, has been declared a "freedom park." Mayor Ramon Bagatsing said the place, home to Mr Marcos and wife, Imelda, in their 20-year reign, may be used by the people as a symbol of their triumph in their four-day revolution.

Mr Marcos, 68, was deposed in a military-led revolt led by resigned Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Constabulary Chief Lt Gen Fidel V. Ramos. He and his family, including a 90-member entourage, fled Manila Tuesday night on board two U.S. Air Force helicopters for Honolulu, Hawaii, via Guam. Their departure enabled thousands of demonstrators to ransack the palace.

As a freedom park, Bagatsing said, the people may hold meetings in Malacanang without any need for a government permit. "With the designation of Malacanang as a freedom park, it is hoped that the constitutional guarantee of freedom of assembly and speech will be given stress and meaningful significance," he said.

The presidential palace has been closed to the public since Mr Marcos imposed martial law in September 1972. Dozens of demonstrators attempting to assault the palace had died in skirmishes with the police.

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CSO: 4200/753

PHILIPPINES

AQUINO, CABINET ISSUANCE OF POLICIES VIEWED

HK281129 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Article by Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, 28 FEB (AFP)--President Corazon Aquino and her two-day-old cabinet have begun outlining the new Philippine Government's basic policies, concentrating on an administrative revamp, political reconciliation and economic recovery.

In an initially frenzied, groping shift from opposition to administration, the policies have been set out in public statements and press and television interviews by officials often in casual dress and appearing incredulous at having indeed become the government.

The legal status of Mrs Aquino's still provisional government--which is expected to be formalized by the National Assembly next week--appears to have taken a back seat due to its swift recognition by other nations, led by the United States.

The new president was installed in power Tuesday after a four-day revolt sent ailing strongman Ferdinand Marcos into exile after 20 years in power.

Mrs Aquino still works from her campaign headquarters in the financial district of Makati. She has also vowed to use the presidential palace eventually only as an office.

She has named two powerful commissions--one on "good government" and the other on government reorganization--to help her with the formidable task of reshaping an administrative machinery custom-tailored for Mr Marcos.

Mrs Aquino, 53-year-old widow of Mr Marcos's political rival Benigno Aquino who was assassinated in 1983, had accused the 68-year-old former leader of cheating her out of victory in the 7 February presidential election.

Political reconciliation is [word indistinct] by the release of at least 450 officially listed political prisoners. Mr Marcos had jailed thousands of political opponents and suspected dissidents since the 1972-81 martial law period.

There was confusion Thursday when the release of only 37 prisoners was announced, but Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile reaffirmed Friday that all would be released, including alleged communists.

Jaime Ongpin, a former mining firm head named finance minister, stressed the need to regain investor confidence and said he would prefer investments to loans, which total more than 25 billion dollars borrowed by the old regime.

"Our first task that we must attend to is to restore a level of confidence to a point where our people will be willing to resume making investments in our economy," Mr Ongpin told a government television talk show.

Foreign investors have said that they would only stake their own money here if Filipinos made new investments and themselves brought back assets stashed away abroad, widely believed to total billions of dollars.

The signs are encouraging so far. The peso has strengthened, the stock market has perked up, and all business groups have expressed support.

Food magnate Jose Concepcion, the new trade and industry minister, said he would seek the postponement of an import liberalization plan by two months in order to protect fragile local industries from foreign competition.

The World Bank-imposed program was due to take effect 1 January but was postponed by Mr Marcos to woo a largely pro-Aquino business sector.

Agriculture Minister Ramon Mitra, an MP, former cattle rancher and coconut trader, has vowed to dismantle trade monopolies of Marcos "cronies" in coconuts and sugar, which have traditionally been the main commodity exports.

Vice President Salvador Laurel, named prime minister and foreign minister, has so far kept silent, not announcing policies for either of his two portfolios, along with Mr Enrile, who led the military revolt that hastened Mr Marcos's downfall.

Mr Enrile appears to be busy consolidating the armed forces and making sure that holdout Marcos loyalists fall into line, sources said, but the former martial law administrator has already begun releasing political prisoners as ordered by President Aquino.

MP Neptali Gonzales, the justice minister, has vowed "justice for all" and is expected to be at the forefront of the prosecution of former government and military officials who had abused their positions, official sources said.

Education Minister Lourdes Quisumbing, a former president of an elite Roman Catholic girls' college, has vowed to improve the lot of scandalously underpaid government school teachers as one of her priorities.

MP Aquilino Pimentel, the minister of local governments, has pledged to institute autonomy for provincial, city and municipal governments to end a highly centralized system whereby local governments were controlled by Manila.

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PHILIPPINES

POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE TO TEST AQUINO

OW281037 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Manila, 28 Feb (KYODO)--Pressure is mounting for the Government of Philippine President Corazon Aquino to release all political offenders imprisoned under the regime of deposed president Ferdinand Marcos while doubts are being raised about her ability to control the military which helped her topple Marcos.

Mrs. Aquino Thursday ordered the release of 39 political detainees in various parts of the country two days after she took over government from Marcos.

Marcos fled the country at the height of a rebellion of government troops led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and armed forces Vice Chief of Staff Gen Fidel Ramos who refused to recognize his reelection and accused him of rigging the vote.

A five-man committee created by Mrs. Aquino, which includes Enrile and Ramos and is headed by former senator and ex-political detainees Jovito Salonga, has been asked to recommend the immediate release of political detainees.

Presidential spokesman Rene Saguisag said "hundreds" more will be released by Saturday but relatives of those still detained and human rights organizations are disappointed at the slow process. Saguisag acknowledged that military authorities are resisting the release of "certain individuals."

"If she can forgive Marcos and his cronies, what about the innocent political prisoners," said Mrs Bel Arcilla, wife of a farmer still detained although newspaper reports listed him as among those ordered released Thursday.

Sister Roberta Ilumin, acting head of the church-run task force detainees (TFD), said that political prisoners symbolize a repressive regime and that they should be released by the new government to remove the "mirrors of repression."

The TFD, which has been working for the release of political offenders under the Marcos regime, said there are 625 detainees all over the country as of early this month, most of them from the rebellion-torn southern Philippine island of Mindanao. Official military records show only 450 detainees.

The detainees accuse their captors of torturing them and most of them have not been formally charged in court but are being held on suspicion of being members or supporters of the communist party and the communist-led New People's Army (NPA).

Among those still in detention are former university professor and communist party chairman Jose Maria Sison, farmer and accused NPA commander Bernabe Buscayno, and former government executive and alleged chairman of the leftwing underground umbrella organization, the National Democratic Front (NDF), Horacio Morales.

Enrile announced on government television Thursday noon that Mrs. Aquino has ordered the release of all political prisoners, including Sison. He said he was informed by Salonga of the release order.

"We are bound by the order of the president. If she issued that order, we will carry it out," he said, adding that if Sison does not renounce violence "the military organization will deal with him."

However, Sison's wife, Juliet, expressed doubts as to whether Enrile and Ramos, who are staunch anticomunists, will allow her husband to leave the maximum security prison where he has been languishing since his arrest in 1977.

Enrile was a member of the Marcos cabinet and administrator of the 1972-1981 martial law period while Ramos served as chief of the para-military Philippine Constabulary (PC), a branch of the armed forces. Both men are now part of the Aquino government.

Mrs. Sison told KYODO news service that the release of the detainees will test the political will of the Aquino government and said that the main objection to their release comes from the military, "specially from Enrile and Ramos."

"This (release of political detainees) is going to increase her credibility and prove to the people that she is sincere," Mrs. Sison said. "This is something crucial for her and many people will see that if she can prevail over Enrile and Ramos on the issue of political prisoners, this will be a sign that she is really in full control of the government."

Armando Malay, former dean of students of the University of the Philippines and chairman of an organization seeking amnesty for political detainees, said delay in the release of detainees "suspicious."

"I hope this thing will be corrected in matter of days but if these go into weeks or months, certainly we are going to mobilize and create a big stink about it," he said.

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PHILIPPINES

MARCOS BROTHER RESIGNS MEDICARE POSITION

HK010601 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 28 Feb 86 pp 1, 2

[Text] Dr Pacifico E. Marcos has resigned as Medicare chief along with other officials appointed or designated by his brother, the exiled president.

Replacement of the Medicare officials is pending with Luis Villafuerte, head of the presidential commission on government reorganization.

Other key personnel of the office are staying put as ordered by President Aquino, and keeping all records intact as she has directed.

The officials to be replaced, according to Medicare sources, will not include members of the Medicare board of commissioners who come from nongovernment entities like the Philippine Medical Association [PMA] and the Philippine Hospital Association [PHA].

Membership of the presidents of the PMA and PHA, who are elected by their respective organization's members, in the Medicare board is specified in the Medicare law.

Meanwhile, replacements for the deposed Medicare officials in the board will have to tackle a number of major issues left unsettled by the former board.

These include:

1. Expansion of the Medicare coverage to include those who are not SSS [Social Security System] of GSIS [expansion unknown] members, and improvement of the current benefits.
2. Consolidation of Medicare Contributions being kept in custody by the SSS and GSIS under one office.
3. Continued operation and maintenance of the 87 hospitals set up by Medicare in the remote rural areas.
4. The proposed establishment of health maintenance organizations or private groups that will assume responsibility for providing health care.

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PHILIPPINES

ILOCOS NORTE MAN HAILS ENRILE, RAMOS

HK281649 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Feb 86 p 9

[Text] Quezon City--Integrated Bar of the Philippines president and former Congressman Simemon M. Valdez of Ilocos Norte hailed yesterday Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Gen Fen Fidel V. Ramos, for their heroic stance in bringing back democratic process to the country.

He said that their courageous stand as soldiers of space has given new impetus and direction in the future of the country as shown and exemplified by their leadership. Valdez also lauded the "people's power" as a great factor which contributed to the dawn of democratic ideals.

Valdez has asked all Ilocanos, most especially political leaders, to forget partisanship and work together for a common goal in support of the various programs of the new government. He added that during these times of economic crisis, unity is needed to solve the society's ills, he said.

Meanwhile, some quarters of good and concerned citizenry in Ilocos Norte have asked and endorsed former Congressman Valdez to offer his leadership and services in the province in view of the absence of MP Imee Marcos Manotoc and Governor Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, former President Marcos' daughter and son, respectively.

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PHILIPPINES

TANK MISSING FROM FORT BONIFACIO

HK281211 Quezon City DZFM Radio in English 1100 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Broadcast on 6167.3 kHz]

[Text] A v-150 commando tank reportedly under the command of Major Wyrlo Ver [Fabian Ver's son] and a [words indistinct] presidential security command at Malacanang Palace has been missing since 25 February. The assault vehicle was reportedly abandoned by its crew at Aurora Boulevard, Santa Mesa, while on its way to Camp Crame on an assault mission. More from Jun Francisco:

[Begin recording] The v-150 was part of a 6-tank convoy sent out from Malacanang Park to attack Camp Crame, which was used by General Fidel Ramos as headquarters of the People's Power Movement after defecting from the Marcos government. [words indistinct] the crew of the missing tank were apparently disheartened and decided instead to abandon their mission and join the growing force of Gen Ramos and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Ten other of such v-150 tanks [word indistinct] which rolled off from the army's [word indistinct] regiment headquarters at Fort Bonifacio were earlier recovered from the Malacanang grounds following the departure of deposed Marcos, his family and diehard supporters. A check with the tank unit at Fort Bonifacio showed that they were one tank short in their inventory.
[end recording]

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PHILIPPINES

PAPER CLAIMS MARCOS VISITED HOMETOWN BEFORE DEPARTURE

HK281514 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Manila, 28 Feb (AFP)--Deposed President Ferdinand Marcos returned to his home region after fleeing his palace Tuesday in a last-ditch effort not to go into exile abroad after ruling for 20 years, a newspaper said Friday.

When Mr Marcos boarded a U.S. helicopter Tuesday night, he begged to be taken to Laoag in his home region of Ilocos because he said he "wanted to spend one last night in Ilocos," respected columnist Max Soliven wrote in the DAILY INQUIRER.

Once he arrived, Mr Marcos became aggressive, ordering his aides to organize an "Ilocano Army" to fight its way back to Metro Manila and "recover" the capital, Mr Soliven said without giving sources.

He finally gave up after calls to former Deputy Premier Joe Rono and Trade and Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin elicited the responses "please spare our people a bloodbath" and "think of the millions of Filipinos who are going to die if you start a civil war."

Mr Marcos flew out of the U.S. Clark Air Base Wednesday morning and is now in Hawaii.

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PHILIPPINES

JOURNALISTS CALL FOR 'NEW PRESS ORDER' IN MANILA

BK281257 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1237 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Kuching, Malaysia 28 Feb (OANA-BERNAMA)--The Manila-based Journalists' Association for Rural Asia (JARASIA) Friday welcomed President Corazon Aquino's assurance on her first day in power that press freedom in the Philippines will be restored.

JARASIA Secretary-General Francis Siah said in a statement in this capital of the east Malaysian Sarawak State the association was also very happy to learn that Filipino woman writer Mila Aguilar Roque was among the first batch of political prisoners to be released by President Aquino Thursday.

"In welcoming the new president's assurance on press freedom, we wish to call on her to immediately release all journalists jailed in the Philippines under Marcos' presidential decree 9, said Siah, who is with the SARAWAK TRIBUNE, a local English daily.

JARASIA holds that Presidential Decree 1834, which makes "unlawful use of publications" punishable by death or life imprisonment, is a form of harassment in the guise of legal action against the Philippine press.

Siah said President Aquino should take measures to abolish that decree immediately.

"We also call on the new president to withdraw all charges and libel suits against the publishers and journalists and to establish a new press order for the Filipino press which should encompass the right of any Filipino journalist to practice his profession without having to secure clearance from the authorities as had been the practice under Marcos," he said.

JARASIA also reaffirmed its support for the commitment of the National Press Club of the Philippines to fair and responsible journalism. JARASIA, the three-year-old organization which has its secretariat in Manila, has among its members press representatives from developing countries such as Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

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PHILIPPINES

PROBLEMS CONFRONTING AQUINO ANALYZED

HK010719 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Article by Teodoro Benigno]

[Text] Manila, 1 Mar (AFP)--President Corazon Aquino has won the first round in a gruelling fight to get her government in place, but she has yet to assault and conquer the military, Supreme Court and National Assembly.

Her first-round feat saw Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile gulp and accept her executive order to release about 450 political prisoners, including Jose Maria Sison, suspected ex-chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Control of the 250,000-member military is actually her toughest hurdle because its top officers and many reformist junior officers are proteges and followers of both Mr Enrile and Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos.

Analysts say that, theoretically, Mr Enrile and Gen Ramos could mount a coup against the president but would hesitate to do so because millions of Filipinos would again take to the streets in Mrs Aquino's behalf.

Many legal experts consider her rule a "revolutionary government" since it toppled the 20-year-old strongman regime of President Ferdinand Marcos after a disputed 7 February election and a three-day rebellion that chased him into exile on Tuesday.

Mrs Aquino needs complete control of the military establishment to carry out her major policies and decisions all over the country, and negotiate a cease-fire with the leadership of the communist insurgency.

The two top men in the military were palace favorites when Mr Marcos was in power. They mutinied last Saturday after a near shootout with the loyalist troops Armed Forces Chief General Fabian Ver.

The 53-year-old president will have to maneuver skillfully to initially drive a wedge into the military leadership and eventually assert herself as commander-in-chief without let or hindrance. Both Mr Enrile and Gen Ramos have thrown their support to Mrs Aquino.

The second toughest hurdle is the Supreme Court, where the overwhelming majority of the 13 justices are Marcos loyalists who gave him virtual free rein, including constitutional powers of life and death.

The Supreme Court is seen by critics as having set up a legal shield against accusations of human rights violations, particularly the 1983 murder of the new president's husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Aware of the crucial role the judiciary will have to play in her government, Mrs Aquino has asked for the resignations of all Supreme Court members. But the Marcos loyalists are reportedly refusing to budge.

Again, flushing these loyalists out will need political dexterity, and Mrs Aquino has indicated in a recent interview she was considering taking much stronger steps under her mandate as leader of a "revolutionary government."

The third problem is the 200-member National Assembly controlled by Mr Marcos' New Society Movement (KBL), which was formed in 1978 and rolled over the opposition every time the ex-president gave the signal.

The KBL's top leaders, however, have fled the country like Mr Marcos. Without leadership, the party rank-and-file can be softened up and turn coat, not an unusual phenomenon in Philippine politics, analysts say.

Outside of these three major problem areas, analysts add, another Aquino headache is how she can eventually get her own political party to dominate the lives of 54 million Filipinos.

The actual party in power is the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (UNIDO) under whose flag Mrs Aquino contested the election with UNIDO chief Salvador Laurel as her vice-presidential runningmate.

The UNIDO forces of Mr Laurel and the supporters of Mrs Aquino are now in a mad scramble for terrain, with LABAN Ng Bayan, the main coalition group behind her, leading the assault.

The first cabinet roster of 12 was almost evenly divided between UNIDO and LABAN, with Mr Laurel getting the posts of prime minister and foreign minister. Another UNIDO stand-out was Ernesto Macea, named natural resources minister.

But Aquino protege and legislator Aquilino Pimentel got the local government portfolio and could be key to Mrs Aquino's efforts to outmaneuver UNIDO for control of 74 provinces and 60 chartered cities led by metro Manila.

Observers early on spotted bitter ground-level jockeying during the electoral campaign between the UNIDO and LABAN camps. Prior to an Aquino-Laurel reconciliation, bad blood between the two broke out in angry rhetoric.

Analysts say the UNIDO represents traditional Philippine politics based on grass-roots accomodation and patronage, while LABAN is more nationalistic, human rights-oriented and critical of "U.S. imperialism."

Mrs Aquino now readily admits that the election and "people power" rebellion that overturned the Marcos regime with little bloodshed were just the beginning of a long and arduous battle to consolidate power.

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PHILIPPINES

DISPLACED TRIBESMEN PLAN TO DEMOLISH MARCOS MONUMENT

HK010412 Hong Kong AFP in English 0401 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Baguio, Philippines, 1 Mar (AFP)--Tribesmen who say they were displaced by the 1978 construction of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos's bust on a northern mountainside announced Saturday plans to reclaim their land and demolish the monument.

The Ibaloi, one of several mountain tribes in the northern Philippines, have begun inviting journalists in this northern city to attend the 9 March demolition of the bust and the takeover of the surrounding 355 hectare (887.5 acre) park in La Union Province.

The four-story monument, overlooking a golf course on a road leading to Baguio, was completed a year before Mr Marcos fell from power. Critics consider it a symbol of "lavishness" of the 20-year regime.

Mr Marcos abandoned power and fled into exile Tuesday amid a military-civilian rebellion.

The Ibaloi spokesmen, who asked not to be named, said they were among 300 tribal families who were ordered to abandon their ancestral lands--on which they planted upland rice, yams and bananas--in 1975.

The construction of the concrete bust, whose total cost has not been publicly revealed, began in 1978.

Jose Natonio Gonzales, the new tourism minister under the government of Corazon Aquino, could not be reached in Manila Saturday. But he told a talk show on state-run television late Friday that there was "no hard and fast decision" yet, but among the measures being considered were to "get rid of it right away" or to keep it as a "monument to folly." Mr Gonzales also pledged to return the land to the evicted families.

Local officials had no immediate comment on the tribals' plan. The Ibaloi started filing legal suits to reclaim their land last year as the monument began attracting the attention of foreign journalists and tourists.

The Ibaloi spokesmen revealed that some tribesmen have secretly reclaimed the underdeveloped fringes of the park by opening farm lots.

They said they had no intention of returning the money paid them as compensation for their property, which they consider as "measly," saying this would serve as an "indemnity" for the defilement of their ancestral lands and lost harvest for 10 years.

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PHILIPPINES

DETAILS RELEASED OF EXPLOSIVES FOUND AT PALACE

BK020754 Manila PNA in English 0749 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, 2 Mar (PNA)--Security forces have found 18 more land mines and a huge cache of explosives during a mopping-up operation inside the sprawling palace here deserted by deposed President Ferdinand Marcos.

Officials said the explosives were planted along the banks of Pasig River near the presidential palace, obviously by troops loyal to Mr Marcos.

Mr Marcos fled the Philippines last Tuesday following a four-day military revolt against him.

Officials said operatives also found thousands of ammunition hidden inside three secret storerooms of the palace.

According to military chief Gen Fidel V. Ramos, the ammunitions included 400 81mm mortar rounds, 798 4.2-inch mortar bullets, 208 bullets for 76mm mortars and M-48 guns and 722 fragmentation grenades. He said the explosives contained in 524 boxes, were discovered by naval intelligence demolition teams.

They were supposed to be detonated by loyalists of Mr Marcos immediately after his departure last Tuesday. General Ramos said the bombs were laid out in such a way they can all be electronically detonated by just one person. The explosion, he added, would be enough to blow up a single bridge.

He said it took six trucks to haul off the explosives from the presidential palace to nearby Camp Aguinaldo, headquarters of the 250,000-strong armed forces of the Philippines.

The military's mopping-up operation followed the ransacking Tuesday night of the presidential palace by hundreds of people opposed to the Marcos regime. Troops, however, had to come in on the heels of reports that booby traps and powerful explosives had been left behind by Marcos loyalists.

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PHILIPPINES

EX-ARMY DIVISION HEAD REFUSES COMMENT ON HOUSE ARREST

BK020702 Manila PNA in English 0656 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Cagayan de Oro, Philippines 2 Mar (PNA)--An army division commander has refused to talk to newsmen here after he was placed under house arrest during last week's military mutiny against President Ferdinand Marcos.

"I am not issuing any statement," said Brig Gen Madrino C. Munoz, former army's Fourth Infantry Division commander here and a staunch loyalist of deposed President Marcos.

His arrest was ordered by Military Chief Lt Gen Fidel V. Ramos.

Sources said fighting almost broke out here when General Munoz's counterpart in the constabulary, Brig Gen Benjamin Ignacio, declared support to the rebel forces of General Ramos. The split in loyalty prompted them, both graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, to place their respective troops on red alert. However, no clash was reported between two sides.

After President Marcos was deposed last Tuesday, General Ramos immediately ordered General Igancio to take over the army's Fourth Infantry Division here and arrest General Munoz. When newsmen tried to talk to him inside his quarters here, General Munoz refused to confirm or deny his arrest. "I am not issuing any statement," he said.

Munoz was only one of the generals loyal to Marcos who had been replaced in the past days by General Ramos. Others included the chiefs of the Navy, Air Force, Army and the Marines who were known to be Marcos loyalists.

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PHILIPPINES

PNA VIEWS REPORTS ON POSSIBLE U.S. AID POLICIES

BK030659 Manila PNA in English 0645 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, 3 Mar (PNA)--Officials of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are expected to recommend the removal of top executives of the Economic Support Fund (ESF) secretariat administering the non-military portion of the U.S. rental for Philippine military bases.

Sources told PNA that USAID officials consider these ESF top brass as having been "soiled" and should be replaced should the new administration decide to retain the ESF secretariat.

Although such an agency would appear to have brighter prospects owing to recent moves in the U.S. Congress to increase aid to one billion dollars, the sources said, however, that there is no certainty on how the secretariat would be reshaped. The options include its absorption or attachment to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) which administers development projects where SEF funds are also used. Another option is its reconstitution under a new name, with similar operating functions.

It was uncertain whether the one billion dollars proposed to be given to the Philippine Government would be channeled through the USAID. The sources said the amount was "unprecedented".

The second compensation package approved by the U.S. in return for the use of Clark and Subic bases totals 900 million dollars, spread over 5 years.

The sources noted the strong possibility that if the new administration accepts the aid offer, it would ask the U.S. for more "liberal terms" such as more leeway in picking the projects to be funded.

Under the Marcos administration, project criteria were dictated by the aid but there have been allegations that certain functionaries were able to go around the rules.

Because of the strong popular support given to President Aquino, the United States is expected to easily come to terms with the new government on aid guidelines.

The U.S. is particularly anxious that the government continues the fight against insurgency, the sources said. Reports also say that the United States favors reforms to dismantle vestiges of the Marcos rule, necessitating immediate infusion of monetary aid to shore up the Philippines' battered economy.

This coincides with the desire of the great masses that invoke "people's power" to speed up the restoration of democracy last week. [as received]

Although the present ESF secretariat was instructed to stay put on their jobs and pursue ongoing projects, no further conclusion of contracts are being allowed.

The ESF secretariat administers the non-military portion of the 900 million dollars rental for the military bases covering 1985 to 1989. The ESF portion totals 475 million dollars and this has been used mainly for rural productivity projects and the filling up of counterpart local funds for foreign assisted projects, according to secretariat records.

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PHILIPPINES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS FROZEN AFTER PROTESTS

HK030630 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, 3 Mar (AFP)--Local Government Minister Aquillino Pimental Monday moved to avert a barrage of protests over new government appointees by freezing all existing appointments and flying to the provinces to defuse regional tensions.

Meanwhile, the new Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Fidel Ramos, continued the reorganization of the military command by naming as his acting Deputy General Salvador Mison, formerly commander of the Eastern Visayas region and known as a professional "soldiers' soldier."

Mr Pimentel told an Agency FRANCE-PRESSE reporter in the central city of Cebu by telephone that he would fly there later Monday to defuse tensions created when the city's mayor refused to give way to a new appointee.

The minister's office in Manila confirmed that he was out of town.

In the capital, some 60 placard-waving demonstrators massed outside President Corazon Aquino's office calling for the retention of Mayor Amor Belenga, of San Jose City in Nueva Ecija Province north of Manila.

A representative of Mrs Aquino's media office who talked to the demonstrators quoted them as saying that the mayor, though a member of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos' party, had done a lot for the town.

Protests were also reported in Olongapo City, south of Manila, the suburban metropolis of Makati and Cabanatuan City, also in Nueva Ecija.

In Cabanatuan, some 1,000 supporters of the ousted pro-Marcos mayor took over the town hall Sunday, saying they wanted the Aquino government to retain Honorato Perez. They said they feared supporters of the newly appointed mayor would move into the town hall Monday.

Mr Pimentel said in a statement late Sunday that all governors, vice governors, board members and city and municipal mayors and vice mayors should stay in their jobs until replaced.

He also appealed to church, civic and people's organizations to forward any advice they might have on new appointments, so that they would follow the popular will, a spokesman for his office said.

However the freeze statement seemed to have had little effect, as resignations have been demanded and new appointments continued.

The national news agency Monday reported another sit-in in front of the San Juan Municipal Hall in Metro Manila, also by demonstrators urging retention of their mayor.

Several newspapers this weekend criticized Mr Pimentel for what they termed overly hasty moves on local and regional government appointments. Some papers called for elections and others said his moves were illegal and gave the people no way to express their choice.

Gen Ramos, a military spokesman confirmed, continued with the replacement of retired generals and consolidation of the new military command.

Named as head of the Philippine Military Academy, the birthplace of the armed forces reform movement, was Marine General Rodolfo Biazon.

The reform movement played a crucial role in the three-day people-power backed military rebellion led by Gen Ramos and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile that chased Mr Marcos out of the country.

Brigadier General Jose Magno Jr was installed as officer in charge of the sensitive southern command, the scene of years of fighting between government troops and Moslem rebels. He replaced General Delfin Castro, who was among 23 over-age generals retired by Gen Ramos last weekend.

Sources close to the military described Gen Mison, the new deputy chief of staff, as a professional and, like Gen Ramos, a "soldiers' soldiers." They said several of his top commanders were reform movement members.

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PHILIPPINES

LIBERATION REPORTAGE, COMMENTARY REJECTS SNAP ELECTION

Boycott Launched 16 Dec 85

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85 p 3

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "Demands for fair polls ignored: Marcos' Elections Mock People's Right of Suffrage"]

[Text]

THE NATIONAL Democratic Front (NDF) and all the clandestine organizations affiliated with it, as well as many of the open people's organizations in the Philippines, have launched a nationwide movement to boycott the Feb. 7 presidential elections.

The "snap" polls make a mockery of the Filipino people's right of suffrage because the dictatorship is manipulating the conditions, timing and rules of these and, therefore, another Marcos win is a foregone conclusion, a member of the NDF national secretariat told Liberation in a message received Dec. 16.

Given the conditions under which the elections will take place, any opposition hopes of winning are illusory, the NDF official said.

The snap polls are not intended to oust Marcos but rather to reunify the ruling elite behind the regime and to intensify dictatorial rule in the Philippines, he explained.

Calling the scheduled balloting a "scheme of the US-Marcos dictatorship" that is deceptive in nature and anti-people in character, the NDF official

added that the anti-dictatorship forces and the rest of the people could not hope to gain anything substantial from the election and that consequently the only correct course of action is that of boycott.

In a related development, last Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day, two of the largest sectoral organizations in the Philippines -- the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU or May 1st Movement) labor center, with a membership of half a million workers, and the nationwide League of Filipino Students (LFS) -- declared that they are answering Marcos' scheduled elections with "a broad, militant and sustained boycott movement."

Earlier, on Nov. 29, more than 60 prominent leaders of political parties, civic groups and cause-oriented mass organizations signed "A Common Statement of Demands" published in a daily which called for the following to ensure "free, democratic, fair and meaningful" elections:

- Resignation of Marcos which will create a vacancy in the office of the President;

- Total revamp of the Commission on Elections or Comelec;
- Equitable access to media;
- Confinement to barracks of all military and paramilitary personnel;
- Full restoration of the writ of habeas corpus and abolition of the Preventive Detention Action (PDA) and all repressive decrees; and,
- Release of all political detainees.

The signatories, however, stopped short of calling for a boycott unless their demands were met by Mr. Marcos and instead called on the people to "strengthen (their) resolve to fight and get rid of the Marcos dictatorship in the soonest possible time, whether or not elections are held.

On Nov. 28, in an emergency meeting of its national council, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN or New Patriotic Federation), the largest and strongest group in the legal opposition, put forward three "absolute" demands which Mr. Marcos needed to fulfill by the start of the campaign period, otherwise it would call for "non-participation" in the announced polls. BAYAN's three demands were: resignation of Marcos to create a real vacancy in the presidency; restoration of the writ of habeas corpus nationwide and abolition of the PDA; and, synchronization of the presidential and local elections in 1986.

The electoral campaign period officially started Dec. 10, with no concessions from Marcos on any of the demands raised by BAYAN and the parties and personalities of the legal opposition.

Meanwhile, in an eleventh hour arrangement, Corazon Aquino (widow of the slain senator) of Laban ng Bayan (People's Struggle) and Salvador Laurel of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (UNIDO) decided to team up as presidential and vice presidential candidates, respectively, under the banner of the UNIDO party.

In opting for participation without conditions, the groups behind Mrs. Aquino and Laurel are banking on the popularity of Mrs. Aquino and on the strong desire of the people to do away with the Marcos regime to win in the polls.

Outside the country, meanwhile, NDF international representative Luis Jalandoni said that the NDF recognizes the fact that while various sections of the Philippine population may favor certain means of struggle over others, all are united in their will and aspiration to end the US-backed dictatorship of Marcos. Speaking at a press conference in Paris, Jalandoni called on the international community to lend support to the Filipino people's struggle. --

PHOTO CAPTION

Photo shows a toddler and masked youngman at rally, both wearing "boycott" headband: "All set to confront the February 'snap' elections".

U.S. Interests in Election Viewed

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 pp 1,3

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "Secret study says: US Wants 'Credible' Elections"]

A "CREDIBLE" election that will assure a peaceful transition from the Marcos regime to an equally pro-US successor government is what the United States is most concerned about in the scheduled snap polls. This was confirmed by a US Senate intelligence report released three days before Marcos announced the presidential polls.

The 41-page report, an unclassified version of a still-secret intelligence study and dated Oct. 31, 1985, was prepared as a "snapshot" of the Philippines by the staff of the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Marcos announced the holding of elections last Nov. 3. If these push through on Feb. 7, a vice president will also be elected, thus ensuring a clear succession mechanism for the chief executive's post -- a matter previously avoided by Marcos.

"Perhaps the strongest bases for a non-communist future is the continued widespread devotion in the Philippines to democratic norms and processes... particularly elections," the report said. It added that "a blatantly corrupt election next year could ignite an explosion of public resentment that could in turn further stimulate the growth of the New People's Army while accelerating the general breakdown in civil order".

The report reiterated that elections must be "fair" and must be undertaken with other "reforms", otherwise pro-US forces may be unable to "offer a credible alternative to the CPP/NPA".

No explicit criteria were mentioned for "fair" elections, but the report gave the 1984 parliamentary elections as an example of "reasonably honest" polls. However, the 1984 polls were marked by widespread fraud and terrorism, claiming the lives of at least 384 people. US backing for NAMFREL, a poll-watch organization, as well as a few other concessions given by Marcos to make the election appear credible, allowed the reformist opposition to win about 30% of the National Assembly seats. Marcos' control of the legislature has remained unaffected since his party gained an absolute majority in the body.

The US, the report shows, is primarily concerned about whether or not Marcos will institute the "reforms" it prescribes for a peaceful transition. The option to retain or remove Marcos was left open, and the report did not deal on US aid to his regime, which continues to increase.

The report says, "Marcos remains the one man that has the power to assure a democratic transition to a successor government. However, present indications are that Marcos has no intention of playing the role of reformer."

It adds: "It remains to be seen whether outside (i.e., US) influence can be mobilized to leave Marcos with no real alternative to such a course."

Besides elections, other reforms prescribed were: response to demands of the International Monetary Fund, determination on the status of General Ver and a willingness to "professionalize" the armed forces.

The executive summary of the report underscored Washington's interest in having a pro-US successor government and "stability" in the country.

"The US has major political and strategic interests at stake in the Philippines. As the former colonial power, the US is probably identified more closely with the Philippines than any other Asian country. In addition, the US maintains major air and naval facilities at Clark Field and Subic Bay."

Explaining the importance of the bases, the summary says, "From Clark and Subic, US naval and air operations extend westward as far as the Persian Gulf."

The policy thrusts given in the Senate report actually restate those outlined in an interagency report of the US government leaked out early this year. The secret report, entitled "NSSD: US Policy Towards the Philippines", called for increased US political and military intervention in the country.

An "open political system" that allows power sharing among the various factions of the pro-US elite through non-armed competition, an economic rescue program and a military build-up to counter the revolutionary forces were among the goals specified in the NSSD report. --

19 March 1986

Commentary Reviews Fraud in Past Elections

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 pp 2,4

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Commentary: "Fraud in past elections: Result of Snap Polls a Foregone Conclusion?"]

[Text] SINCE MR. MARCOS came to power in the 1965 elections, there have been six major electoral exercises in the Philippines. These were:

1) The presidential elections in 1969 in which Marcos was re-elected president for a second four-year term, with Sergio Osmeña as his opponent; 2) the 1973 referendum to ratify the 1973 Constitution a few months after martial law was declared; 3) the general elections in April 1978 for 165 seats to the Interim Batasan Pambansa (national assembly); 4) the April 1981 plebescite in which amendments to the constitution were made, allowing Marcos power to abolish the national assembly, invalidate laws passed by it or pass his own laws; 5) the June 1981 presidential elections in which Marcos was again re-elected -- this time for a six-year term -- against an obscure opponent, Alejo Santos; and, 6) the May 1984 general elections for the 180 seats of the current Batasan Pambansa.

Among the common features of these elections were the absence of any genuine political opposition, massive tampering with electoral results, vote buying, violence and repression causing many deaths -- all these so that Marcos predictably acquired the results he desired. These electoral exercises, as commentators have noted, were all staged to give his regime a cloak of legitimacy.

The international newsmagazine Newsweek, for instance, commented on the 1978 Batasan elections as follows:

"The defeat of a popular figure such as Benigno Aquino seemed implausible, and. . . many political observers viewed the Manila election as rigged." Then chairman of the government's Commission on Elections (COMELEC), Leonardo Perez, was even forced to admit that there had been manufacturing and substitution and tampering with ballots in Central Luzon.

The 1978 election also saw more than 500 people arrested and detained in Metro Manila alone. The last exercise in bogus elections -- the Batasan elections last May 1984 -- was also the bloodiest, with about 275 people killed in campaign-related violence prior to election day and at least another 109 killed on election day itself. Political oppositionists were goaded by US officials to participate under the UNIDO and reportedly after having been given by the US \$5 million in campaign funds and a promise of winning at least 30% of the Batasan Pambansa seats.

Faced with massive protest actions triggered by the Aquino assassination in August 21, 1983, and to lessen the impact of a very powerful boycott movement, Mr. Marcos found it necessary to take steps to make the May 1984 elections more or less credible.

Thus, Marcos was forced to restrain cheating in a number of major urban centers. As a result -- and for the first time since 1972 -- a significant number of oppositionists won seats in the Batasan Pambansa. In most areas of the country, however, it was common knowledge that Marcos loyalists won through dirty tricks. Glaring examples of cheating were reported in the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Cebu, Tarlac, and Pampanga.

When the National Assembly finally opened, Marcos' New Society Movement or KBL party enjoyed an absolute majority in the legislature. The 30 percent of the seats won by the opposition was not enough to give it voice in the law-making process. Resolutions that it tried to pass were immediately crushed. In effect, the 30% opposition victory only lent a semblance of credibility to the Batasan, which has become known in Manila as the biggest and most expensive rubber-stamp in the world.

In the elections scheduled for February 7, 1986, the odds against opposition candidates are even greater. Marcos has further tightened his hold on the military as a result of a recent reorganization carried out with General Ver already reinstated as AFP chief of staff. Also, three more Marcos loyalists have been added to beef up the COMELEC, which is supposed to oversee the whole election process.

Marcos has so far avoided synchronizing local and national elections, which would pose more problems for his electoral machinery. Moreover, expenses for synchronized local and presidential elections would be far greater, a prospect the cash-strapped regime and the inflation-ridden economy would hardly be able to survive.

For Marcos and his ruling clique, the coming snap poll is a life-and-death question. Taking no chances, Marcos has even seen to it that the option of cancelling the elections is kept open. The Philippine Supreme Court, another Marcos-controlled body, has been holding in abeyance its decision on the "constitutionality" of the scheduled elections. Once Marcos sees that going through with the poll would be too damaging for him -- or that trends show a decisive win for the opposition -- he might force the high tribunal to declare the whole thing "unconstitutional" and merely continue his term until 1987.

The history of elections under the dictatorship, as well as current developments, show that the snap elections are a foregone conclusion. For most Filipinos, the more fundamental questions are how much will the sham exercise cost in terms of lives lost and more suffering heaped on them, and also how best to end, once and for all, the hated Marcos regime that has been in power for 20 years. --

Cartoon Show Marcos as Jack-in-'Ballot Box'

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 p 2

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Text]



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PHILIPPINES

NDF PROGRAM ANALYZES, CRITICIZES VER ACQUITTAL

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85 pp 1, 4

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "Ver Acquittal: Burying Justice Without Shame"]

[Text] THE EXONERATION of Gen. Fabian Ver of any criminal involvement in the celebrated assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino -- finally announced Dec. 2 by the government-appointed Sandiganbayan (Ombudsman's court) after nearly 27 months of investigations and trial hearings -- was long in coming but entirely expected by many in the Philippines, especially by the political opposition.

Ver had been accused, along with 25 other military personnel and one civilian, after a special investigative commission (the Agrava Board) alleged in its majority report that he had acted to cover up a military conspiracy to murder Aquino and the "fall guy" for the crime, Rolando Galman.

Ver's immediate reinstatement to his former post as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), within three hours of the acquittal, also came as no surprise to those in Manila and abroad who have long been familiar with Mr. Marcos' brand of justice.

Given Ver's closeness to Mr. Marcos -- he is a cousin of Marcos' and known for his canine devotion to his boss -- there was no way he could have been found guilty and meted appropriate punishment by a Marcos-appointed court, according to the popular belief in Manila. Finding Ver guilty, in this

view, would have been tantamount to declaring to the whole world that Marcos masterminded and ordered the assassination of Aquino.

This has also been the view of Corazon Aquino, the widow of the slain senator. She has always said that she holds Marcos responsible for the murder and that she expects no justice while Marcos is in power.

Mr. Marcos, analysts point out, also feels that Ver is simply too closely identified with him to be officially found guilty. A guilty verdict would force him to remove Ver permanently from the chief of staff post, and this would be a risky move at this time since it would weaken his hold on the AFP -- the vital state institution he still largely controls and which has the guns he needs to repress the people and all the forces opposing his 20-year-old rule.

For its part, the administration of US President Reagan, which has continuously propped up the troubled Marcos regime through military and economic aid, has for some time now been exerting pressure to retire Ver. It regards him as a stumbling block to its plan of "reforming" the AFP and making this a more efficient and "professional" organization under US influence -- not so much for immediately getting rid of Marcos but for containing the rapidly growing New People's Army.

The Ver acquittal sparked renewed street demonstrations in Manila and other Philippine cities, including a prolonged "noise barrage" in the metropolis the day after the verdict was announced. Many in the Philippines now regard it as an event which further polarizes Philippine society and an explosive issue in the coming "snap" presidential elections.

A demonstrator's placard summed up the general attitude toward the Marcos government and its judicial system: "Justice is dead!" --

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PHILIPPINES

NDF PAPER REPORTS MINORITIES MEETING, CONCERNS

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85 p 3

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "Phil Minorities Say Snap Polls 'Diversionary'"]

[Text] Some 60 delegates representing the Philippines' eight million national minorities described the coming elections as the "Marcos regime's diversionary tactic" intended to deflect the people's attention from more urgent issues confronting the Filipinos, including minority peoples -- such as escalated militarization, continuing encroachment into ancestral lands, and economic deterioration.

In a resolution passed during the Second Consultative Assembly of Minority Peoples (CAMP II) held in Manila third week of November, the delegates resolved to intensify their struggle for self-determination and autonomy, for the creation of a democratic coalition government, and for dismantling the US-supported Marcos dictatorship.

Delegates at the four-day CAMP II recalled how they were ejected from their lands owing to government decrees and policies that paved the way for the intrusion of multinational firms and foreign-funded infrastructure projects into their lands.

"The exploitation of our Filipino brothers in the lowlands," said a Mananua delegate from Surigao del Norte province in Mindanao, "pales when compared to what we are suffering. We're treated like animals, sneered at while being forced to dance to the delight of tourists."

Delegates to the assembly included the Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA) which represents some 60 Igorot groups in northwestern Luzon, representatives of the Aetas from Zambales province, Tagbanuas from Palawan province, Mangyans from Mindoro province, the Lumads (collective term for Manobos, Manguanigan, Bagobos, and other ethnic minorities from the southern island of Mindanao), and other minority peoples.

Delegates from the US-based Survival International and Malaysia also attended the conference.

What preoccupied the delegates at CAMP II was their deliberations on the need for a "democratic coalition government". They were one in proclaiming that their future lies in a democratic coalition government where their representation and a comprehensive development program for tribal minorities will be finally guaranteed. --

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PHILIPPINES

NDF ORGAN REPORTS OPPOSITION TO PUBLIC ASSEMBLY ACT

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85, p 3

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "Broad Coalition Wants Scrapping of Assembly Act"]

[Text] A BROAD coalition of concerned citizens and cause-oriented organizations have called for the scrapping of Batas Pambansa (BP) 5577, otherwise known as the Public Assembly Act of 1985, which they said seeks to further limit whatever is left of the people's right to peaceably assemble and petition government for the redress of grievances.

In a signed statement published in newspapers in Manila, various groups and organizations composing the People's Committee for Democratic Rights said that in its entirety, the Public Assembly Act of 1985 "restrains rather than facilitates, punishes rather than rewards citizens for exercising their fundamental rights to free expression and peaceful assembly. It cannot but be construed as another of the Marcos regime's insidious attempts to legitimize its terroristic policy against mass protest."

The statement added that BP 5577 "unduly delegates to mayors or any other civilian or military acting in their behalf the power to establish if a rally or demonstration poses a 'clear and present danger' and on this basis, deny the issuance of permits for such assemblies."

According to the Constitution, the statement pointed out, this power should only be exercised by independent bodies such as the courts and not partisan government authority. The common statement further argued:

"It does not actually seek to protect rallyists from violent dispersals through its specified ban of firearms within an area 100 meters from a rally or demonstration. The Act contains another provision on 'unnecessary firing' which betrays the very acceptance of carrying firearms and using them 'if necessary' against demonstrators. It provides for so-called freedom parks, places of assembly to be centrally situated in the poblacion, but only 'as far as this is practicable'. This qualification places under the government's complete discretion the decision to relegate such 'freedom parks' to isolated and inconspicuous areas." --

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PHILIPPINES

LIBERATION REPORTS HUMAN RIGHTS RALLIES NATIONWIDE, ABROAD

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85 p 3

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "Dec. 10 Protests Abroad Assail Regime's Abuses"]

[Text]

"THE MARCOS government has expanded its human rights violations and militarization to include cases of hamleting of whole villages. It is estimated that at least half a million Filipinos have been uprooted from their homes and forced into concentration centers. . .

"Until the early part of this decade, the targets of human rights violations were usually the marginalized, the poor, the deprived and oppressed. In the last two years, however, an increasing number of victims have included professionals. . . . Since 1979, 26 journalists have been killed and one is still missing. Five human rights lawyers remain in detention."

These were the words of a well-known human rights advocate who addressed a conference in Europe last Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day.

Protest actions were held to mark the international red-letter day in the Philippines and in a number of cities overseas to denounce violations of human rights by the US-backed Marcos government.

BAYAN (New Patriotic Federation) sponsored a march-rally in Manila attended by some 15,000 demonstrators. The rallyists denounced the massacres in Escalante, Negros, and in Taft Ave. and Tatalon community in Manila. In the Visayan island of Negros, 25,000 participated in a people's strike. Rallies were also held in the cities

of Iloilo, Cebu and Angeles, as well as in Bataan province and in several provinces in the Bicol region.

Marches, pickets, vigils, petition campaigns and other forms of protest actions were held in a number of cities in Europe.

In West Germany, there were protest activities in 14 cities, including street theater in Heidelberg, a march in Bielefeld, and vigils in Hannover and Hamburg.

In the Netherlands, a march and rally at the Philippine embassy were held in The Hague, and indoor protest meetings were undertaken in Brabant and Heerlen.

Human rights meetings were also held in Athens, Greece and in Norway. In Belgium, a fund-raising campaign for political prisoners and their children was organized. In London, a protest mass, a film showing and a petition drive were staged to mark Dec. 10.

Meanwhile, in the United States, a press conference was called by the Alliance for Philippine Concerns and Philippine Resource Center in Los Angeles. An ecumenical mass was held in San Francisco, while in New York about 100 people attended a forum on human rights. A vigil was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Earlier, Filipinos in the US and their American friends demonstrated in Washington DC. ==

PHOTO CAPTIONS

The Hague: march and rally at Philippine embassy

Olivia O'Brian, mother of Fr. Niall, one of the Negros 9 detained by the regime; and Irish MP Tom O'Donald: Presenting 50,000 signatures from Waterford, and more than 120,000 from Dublin, to the US embassy in petition calling on Mr. Marcos to product still missing Redemptorist priest Fr. Ruby Romano.

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PHILIPPINES

NDF CITES TFDP REPORT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85 p 3,4

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "599 Politicals Still Held, TFDP Quarter Report Says"]

[Text]

A BIG majority of political detainees in the Philippines are peasants and workers.

Among the 599 political detainees reportedly still held by the regime, 29 are mothers -- and nine of them are even nursing mothers.

These were revealed in the third quarter (1985) report of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), the pioneer nationwide human rights organization in the country.

The TFDP report shows that as of September 30, 1985, there were 599 political detainees languishing in around 110 military camps, detention centers, prisons and military hospitals all over the country. Of these, 63 were in Metro Manila; 177 in the Luzon region; 55 in the Visayas region; and 304 in the Mindanao region. Out of the 599 political detainees, 104 are females and 495 are males.

The report also shows that there have been at least 220 long-held detainees -- those detained for over a year as of September 1985. The longest-held and sentenced political detainee is Gabriel Salonga, who was arrested on Jan. 14, 1969 in Porac,

Pampanga. Salonga, a father of four, was convicted on October 1973.

A cross-study of the political detainees shows that 231 of them are farmers, 69 are workers, 35 are professionals, 20 are students, 30 are out-of-school youth, and 19 are fishermen.

Most of the detainees, the report said, claim that they were not issued proper warrants of arrest. Others have yet to see copies of the Arrest, Search and Seizure Orders (ASSO), Presidential Commitment Order (PCO) or Preventive Detention Action (PDA) supposedly issued against them. (Note: The ASSO was replaced by the PCO which was in turn subsequently renamed the PDA.)

Already denied their right against arbitrary arrest, many detainees have also been stripped of their right to due process. Sixty-five of them are being detained with no formal charges filed against them. Others who have been charged in court are experiencing a certain kind of legal limbo. They include those already ordered released

but remain in detention, and those whose motions for bail have been granted but could not be released because their military custodians refuse to release them.

In Metro Manila, four detainees have been ordered released by the courts, yet they remain in detention. Likewise, three detainees in Mindanao have not been released despite court orders to release them. The motions for bail of three detainees in Metro Manila, 12 in Luzon, one in the Visayas and four in Mindanao have been granted but they continue to languish in jail.

Faced with these seemingly insurmountable obstacles to freedom, the detainees remain steadfast in fighting for their rights and freedoms. They have staged mass struggles in prison, such as fasting and hunger strikes. Among the victories of their united actions was the issuance of a circular by the Ministry of National Defense in 1976 authorizing the release of nursing mothers, and in the case of a detained couple, the release of one of the detained spouses.

Despite this circular, however, military authorities of the Marcos regime refuse to release the nine nursing mothers still held. Likewise, four detained couples in Luzon, one in the Visayas and three in Mindanao continue to languish in jail. --

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Photo of children carrying a banner which reads "Free all Political Prisoners",
Detainees children state a fond wish for Christmas".

Relatives and friends honor those who laid down their lives for the people.

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CSO: 4200/754

PHILIPPINES

MILITARY REFORM LEADERS ON CONTACTS WITH U.S.

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85 p 4

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "AFP Reform Group in Contact with US Officials"]

[Text]

LEADERS of the reform movement in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said "we have been in contact with the Pentagon and State Department officials and they have encouraged us on reform".

"But we have made it clear to them that while we appreciate the United States' concern and that the US is such a big power that it cannot be ignored, they will be doing us more harm than good if they insist on projecting the image of protecting the reform movement," the reform leaders said in an interview with the Philippine News and Features last month.

It was the first public admission of American connection by leaders of the "Reform the AFP Movement" (RAM), composed mostly of graduates of the government-run Philippine Military Academy. The RAM leaders, however, denied the widely-believed suspicion that the

group is being supported by the US Central Intelligence Agency.

The interview covered a wide range of issues, including reports that some RAM leaders are to be issued PDAs (Presidential Preventive Detention Action orders) by Marcos.

How is the morale of AFP soldiers in the field? RAM leaders said it's not so good. "In areas where the New People's Army are active and gaining adherence, the morale is really not good because the men are worried."

Regarding reports that there's a strong group in the AFP which might launch a coup, RAM leaders who preferred to remain anonymous said that it is common knowledge that General Josephus Ramas (chief of the Philippine Army) is developing a counter-coup force in Force Bonifacio in Metro Manila. --

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PHILIPPINES

NDF ADDRESS MIGRANT WORKER CONCERNS IN EUROPE

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85 p 4

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Article: "Filipino Migrants in Italy Expect New Harsh Decree"]

[Text]

FILIPINO migrant workers in Italy are worried about a report that the Craxi government will issue a decree in January 1986 imposing strict immigration rules. The decree is said to authorize deportation of workers without proper documents who arrived after 1982, and penalizing those who employ such workers.

The decree is expected to affect a large number of the estimated 60,000 to 80,000 Filipino migrant workers in Italy. Like hundreds of thousands in other countries of western Europe and the Middle East, Filipino migrants in Italy were forced to leave the Philippines due to deteriorating economic conditions made more difficult by the intense civil war waged by the Marcos regime against the people.

Harsh immigration laws are but one of the forms of national, racial and class oppression that Filipino migrant workers suffer as third world nationals in western Europe and in North America. A number of organizations working for the migrants have pointed out that such oppression is actually an extension of, and is rooted in, the oppression of the Filipino people as a nation under the neocolonial rule of the US.

The National Democratic Front has called on Filipino migrants to develop their political organizations, as well as their rights and welfare organizations. Their struggles to defend their rights achieves direction and gains vigor when closely linked to the overall struggle of the Filipino people, the NDF said. --

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PHILIPPINES

SOLIDARITY CENTER ESTABLISHED IN MEXICO CITY

(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5, Nov-Dec 85 p 4

[Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]

[Text]

A GROUP of Filipinos and their friends have established a center for Philippine solidarity work in Mexico City to inform the people of Mexico and other Latinamerican countries about the Filipino people's struggle for national liberation and democracy.

The center, formally opened recently, has initiated or participated in the following activities:

- a conference on "Militarization in the Philippines" at the National University of Mexico (UNAM);
- dissemination of the NDF's 12-Point Program (Spanish version)
- a film showing of "Salidum-ay" at the College of Mexico, followed by an open forum on the Philippine situation
- Organization of a Workers' Group for the defense of human rights in the Philippines under Mexico's Commission for Human Rights; and,
- an information campaign on the Philippines launched on the second anniversary of the Aquino assassination.

The center has also established links with Don Sergio Mendez Arceo, who played an important part in the International People's Tribunal in Antwerp. ..

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CSO: 4200/754

PHILIPPINES

FOOD MINISTRY EXTENDS RICE FUNDING PROGRAM 22 FEB 86

HK270121 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 22 Feb 86 p 8

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) has granted P20 million additional funding to the Quedan Guarantee Fund Board (QGFB) to finance the expansion of its coverage in the Intensified Rice Production Program and Expanded Yellow Corn Program.

The P20 million is in addition to the P20 million budget released by the MAF to the QGFB earlier.

Under the agreement signed by the MAF and QGFB representatives, the latter will extend loans to their franchised trade-millers for the financing of production inputs to rice and corn farmers.

QGFB assures the MAF of 100 percent repayment of the fund. Recent records showed that the QGFB has already repaid about P14 million of the P70 million extended earlier.

Repayment of trader-millers to the QGFB has been more than 85 percent excluding indemnity payments on damage crops.

The trader-millers, under the marketing agreements with the farmers, procure rice and corn at the prevailing market price or the government support price, whichever is higher.

The P70 million earlier provided by the MAF was extended to 87 trader-millers who financed 4,813 farmers covering about 19,214 hectares of rice and corn farms since the second cropping season last year.

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CSO: 4200/747

PHILIPPINES

CPI POSTS 3.96 PERCENT RISE IN JANUARY

HK262202 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 24 Feb 86 p 2

["Economic Indicator" column: "Consumer Price Index Rises"]

[Text] The consumer price index (CPI) for all income households nationwide continued to increase in January this year, posting a 3.96 percent rise from its year ago level, statistics recently released by the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) showed.

The CPI as of January stood at 359.7 index points, 13.7 index points higher than the previous year's level of 346.0 index points.

The rise in the CPI level could be attributed to increases in the price indices of all commodity groups. With the hike in rental rates, the housing and repairs sector registered the highest percentage increase of 9.41 percent to 347.5 index points from 317.6 index points a year ago. This was followed by the clothing sector with a 8.64 percent rise from 370.4 index points to 402.4 index points.

The CPI measures the inflation rate or the average change in the prices of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by the average household. Items included in the basket are food; beverages and tobacco; clothing; housing and repairs; fuel, light and water; services; and miscellaneous items.

By region, the inflation rate at the National Capital Region was 7.21 percent. This higher rate was the result of double-digit growth rates posted by fuel, light and water (19.92 percent); housing and repairs (14.43 percent); and clothing (11.01 percent). During the month in review, the CPI in the metropolis increased from 344.1 index points to 368.9 index points.

Meanwhile in areas outside Metro Manila, the inflation rate was only 3.35 percent. The CPI in these areas stood at 357.9 index points, 11.6 index points more than 1985 figure of 346.3 index points.

Consumer Price Index for All Income Households
 January 1985 to January 1986
 (1978 - 100)

Period	Philippines	National Capital Region [NCR]	Outside NCR
1986			
January	359.7	368.9	357.9
1985			
January	346.0	344.1	346.3
February	349.2	344.5	350.1
March	350.6	345.1	351.7
April	348.9	343.6	349.9
May	349.5	345.6	350.3
June	351.3	349.1	351.7
July	356.1	357.3	355.9
August	357.0	356.1	357.2
September	355.8	355.6	355.8
October	354.6	357.0	354.1
November	355.5	360.7	354.5
December	356.8	363.7	355.5

Source: National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO)

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 CSO: 4200/747

PHILIPPINES

CENTRAL BANK FIGURES SHOW COMMODITY EXPORT DROP

HK262216 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Feb 86 p 2

[*"Economic Indicator" column: "Exports Fall 14.14 Percent"*]

[Text] Exports last year dropped 14.14 percent compared with the year ago level, data from the Central Bank showed. For 1985, the total value of exports amounted to \$4,628.172 million, \$762.474 million lower than the previous year's \$5,390.646 million.

The decline in the total value during the year could be attributed to the slump in the international prices of the country's export products in the world market.

Shipments of traditional goods showed a 28.87 percent or \$527.824 million decline from \$1,828.235 million in 1984 to \$1,300.411 million last year. Of the traditional exports shipped during the year, coconut products registered the biggest drop of \$268.777 million or 36.95 percent from \$727.314 million in 1984 to \$458.537 million.

This was followed by sugar and its products which amounted to \$185.152 million last year, 33.67 percent lower than 1984's \$279.119 million. Other traditional exports which showed decreases in value were forest products which dropped by 26.40 percent from \$270.585 million in 1984 to \$199.138 million; mineral products, from \$266.446 million to \$243.149 million; abaca fibers, from \$29,752 million to \$16.533; petroleum products, from \$93.367 million to \$38.593 million and unmanufactured tobacco, from \$28.450 million to \$24.241 million.

Non-traditional exports, valued at \$3,275.398 million last year, showed a slight drop of 4.51 percent or \$154.580 million from \$3,429.978 million in 1984. Exports of nontraditional manufactures which included electronics and electrical equipment/parts and telecommunications, garments, textile yarns/fabrics, footwear, travel goods and handbags among others amounted to \$2,765.399 million last year, down \$226.638 million or 7.57 percent from \$2,992.037 in 1984.

Meanwhile, exports of non-traditional manufactures which amounted to \$509.999 million in 1985 showed a 16.45 percent or \$72.058 million increase from \$437.941 million in 1984. These included nickel, iron ore agglomerates, bananas, mangoes, coffee, raw/not roasted, fish, fresh or preserved and rice.

Exports by Major Commodity Group
January to December, 1984 & 1985
(Value in thousand \$US)

	1985	1984	Percent change
I. Traditional Exports	1,300,411	1,828,235	(28.87)
Coconut products	458,537	727,314	(36.95)
Sugar and products	185,152	279,119	(33.67)
Forest products	199,138	270,585	(26.40)
Mineral products	243,149	266,446	(8.74)
Fruits and vegetables	135,068	133,202	1.40
Abaca fibers	16,533	29,752	(44.43)
Tobacco unmanufactured	24,241	28,450	(14.79)
Petroleum products	38,593	93,367	(58.67)
II. Non-Traditional Exports	3,275,398	3,429,978	(4.51)
Non-traditional manufactures	2,765,399	2,992,037	(7.57)
Non-traditional unmanufactured	509,999	437,941	16.45
III. Special Transactions	12,166	7,673	58.56
IV. Re-exports	40,197	124,760	(67.78)
Total Exports	4,628,172	5,390,646	(14.14)

Source: Central Bank

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CSO: 4200/747

PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL BANK SUFFERS BILLION PESO LOSS

HK262209 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 25 Feb 86 p 13

[By Juanito C. Concepcion]

[Text] The Philippine National Bank [PNB] incurred a huge loss of about P7 billion in its operations last year, reliable PNB sources disclosed yesterday.

The huge loss, it was learned, was attributed mainly to the need to finance the multi-billion-peso non-performing accounts of the bank.

PNB, according to sources, is scheduled to come out with an official statement sometime this week on the results of its 1985 operations prior to the scheduled annual stockholders' meeting on 4 March.

The fact that the multi-billion-peso exposure of PNB in non-performing accounts and acquired assets has been dragging down the financial performance of the bank is the main reason why the government has been contemplating to transfer these bad accounts to an asset management corporation.

Under a similar financial restructuring of the Development Bank of the Philippines [DBP], the bad accounts of both government-owned banks would be transferred to this corporation so that the two banks can resume their operations, either jointly or separately, on a clean slate.

The huge budgetary allocation by the national government to government financial institutions, principally PNB and DBP, had been one of the reasons why the fiscal deficit in 1985 was bloated and which prompted the government to seek a higher P13 billion budget deficit ceiling (from an original P6.2 billion) from the International Monetary Fund.

Prime Minister Cesar Virata earlier said some P11 billion in budget allocation was extended to government financial institutions in 1985.

He said the government would continue to extend budgetary support to government financial institutions this year.

He did not specify, however, the amount that has been allocated to PNB.

Banking sources said the budgetary support to be given to PNB this year could again amount to several billion pesos, considering the huge costs of maintaining the multi-billion peso non-performing accounts of the bank.

The proposed merger of PNB and DBP is still uncertain because of the apparent opposition in both banking and other quarters.

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CSO: 4200/747

PHILIPPINES

CUSTOMS REPORT ON 1985 ZAMBOANGA PORT EARNINGS

HK270105 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 26 Feb 86 p 15

[By Tony Pe. Rimando]

[Text] Zamboanga City, 23 Feb--A total of 6,049,514 kilograms of assorted commodities worth P112,296,061.45 was imported to the autonomous region of western Mindanao, through the port of Zamboanga, in 1985.

Local customs district collector Job P. Guinto said the imported volume of goods last year was 997,259 kilograms, or 14.10 percent, less than the 7,064,353 kilograms imported in 1984.

Value wise, however, last year's import was P56,904,852.63 or 102.50 percent, more than the previous year's import which had a total worth of P55,469,808.82, Guinto said in his report to Customs Commissioner Ramon Farolan.

Guinto said chemicals made up the biggest volume and most valuable imported commodity last year with a total of 2,227,485 kilograms worth P35,750,683.97.

This, he said, was followed by barter trade goods which totalled 1,544,001 kilograms valued at P20,736,661.

In value, electrical parts came next with a total worth of P30,806,610.28 for 431,272 kilograms.

The other imported commodities and their respective volumes and values were machineries and parts--216,133 kilograms, P2,230,521; vehicles and parts--2,728 kilograms, P41,015.32; hardware--102,787 kilograms, P1,006,832.99; veneer tapes--8,959 kilograms, P393,009.36; tomato paste and spices--305?,004 [as printed] kilograms, P3,390,903.68; fresh fish--200,000 kilograms, P759,495.60; exempt and conditionally--988,310 kilograms, P16,683,616.92; parcel--5,074 kilograms, P89,310 kilograms; and miscellaneous 17,761 kilograms, P507,575.59.

Guinto reported that Japan imported over one-third of the total volume of commodities with 2,581,391 kilograms valued at P68,188,173.09.

Singapore came next with 1,243,943 kilograms worth P17,875,187.33 followed by United States which shipped in 591,165 kilograms valued at P9,588,619.13.

The other countries and their respective volumes of imported commodities and values were Australia--190,628 kilograms, P1,192,866.70; Belgium--66,000 kilograms, P1,987,257.60; Brunei--65,000 kilograms, P209,447.16; Germany--179,241 kilograms, P2,898,033.60; Korea--418 kilograms, P37,127.49; Malaysia--858,345 kilograms, P8,186,164.16; Netherlands--6,075 kilograms, P98,313.60; Saudi Arabia--4 kilograms, P165; Singapore--1,243,943 kilograms, P17,875.33; and Taiwan--267,304 kilograms, P2,934,706.59.

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CSO: 4200/747

PHILIPPINES

ECONOMIC INDICATOR ON DECLINE IN IMPORTS

HK010621 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 28 Feb 86 p 3

[*"Economic Indicator"* column: "Imports Decline 15.75 Percent in '85"]

[Text] The total freight on board (FOB) value on imports last year amounted to \$7,114 million, down 15.75 percent or \$856 million from the year ago figure of \$6,070 million, latest data gathered from the Central Bank showed.

Imports of raw materials and intermediate goods which accounted for 43 percent of the total recorded the biggest drop of \$437 million or 16.58 percent from \$2,636 million in 1984 to \$2,199 million last year. Imports of these commodities which included wheat, inedible crude materials, animal and vegetable oils and fats, chemicals, manufactures, embroideries, materials and accessories for manufacture of electrical equipment and iron ore, not agglomerated, declined due to the depressed market demand brought about by the general slowdown in business activities.

In terms of percentages, capital goods imports recorded the biggest drop of 31.13 percent from \$1,150 million in 1984 to \$792 million last year. Minerals, fuels and lubricants, on the other hand, declined by a slight 11.83 percent from \$1,649 million in 1984 to \$1,454 million.

Meanwhile, imports of consumer goods in 1985 increased 19.89 percent from \$367 million in 1984 to \$440 million. The growth was attributed to the significant 117.14 percent increase in the importation of beverages and tobacco from \$35 million in 1984 to \$76 million last year. Imports of food and live animals for food also rose 8.84 percent from \$294 million in 1984 to \$320 million.

Imports by Commodity Groups
January-December 1984, 1985
(FOB value in US\$ million)

Commodity groups	1985	1984	percentage change
Capital goods	792	1,150	(31.13)
Raw materials and intermediate goods	2,199	2,636	(16.58)
Minerals, fuels and lubricants	1,454	1,649	(11.83)

[table continued from previous page]

Consumer goods	440	367	19.89
Special transactions	229	268	(14.55)
Total	5,114	6,070	(15.75)

Source: Central Bank

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CSO: 4200/753

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

CNL HOLDS NOVEMBER TALKS--The CNL (Christians for National Liberation), a founding member organization of the National Democratic Front, held a national consultation conference last Nov. 27-29. Representatives from various territorial and subsectoral units assembled to discuss tasks and plans in the light of rapid political developments in the country. The NDF, in a message of greeting to the gathering, urged the CNL to strengthen itself on all levels and further develop its revolutionary capabilities in accordance with the seven general tasks it set forth in its program of action. [Text] [(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 p 4 [Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines] /12828

ACP UNITS IN CEBU--Armed City partisan units of the New People's Army in Cebu City, the largest city in southern Philippines, recently undertook 14 operations. In these actions, the enemy suffered 19 casualties, including seven troopers of the Cebu Metrodiscom killed. In a related report, the Visayas command of the NPA revealed that in the first seven months of this year, it carried out at least 69 guerilla actions in the islands of Negros, Samar, Panay and Cebu. The NPA confiscated 754 arms put out of action a total of 226 enemy soldiers in the same period. Meanwhile, in Central Luzon, NPA units launched at least 40 military actions from July to the second week of September. The partial report said that in those actions, NPA fighters were able to secure 54 firearms. Enemy personnel killed included 17 Philippine Constabulary (PC) soldiers, 10 Air Force troopers, 11 policemen, and 13 paramilitary men and criminal elements. [Text] [(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 p 2 [Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]] /12828

NDF REP ATTENDS PALESTINIAN EVENT--On the invitation of the heads of the Arab missions in the Netherlands, NDF international representative Luis Jalandoni joined some 300 guests at a reception on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at the Congresgebouw in the Hague last November 27. The main guest speaker, Khalid ElHassan, member of the central committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, declared: "If US President Reagan really wants peace in the Middle East, it is possible in five minutes!" He outlined the PLO's efforts for peace in the Middle East, supporting the various UN resolutions aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East. Other speakers were Hasson Fodho, director of the

United Nations Liaison and Information Office in Brussels; H.P.A. Oskamp, member of the Netherlands First Chamber of the state General; David Watkins, director of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding; J.J. ter Laak, general secretary of Pax Christi; and A.G. van der Spek of the Pacifist Socialist Party and member of the Netherlands Second Chamber of the State General. After the speeches, Dr. Ghazi Khoury, head of the PLO office in The Hague and the other Arab mission leaders welcomed the guests with drinks and Palestinian specialties. Jalandoni greeted Dr. Khoury and expressed the NDF's warm solidarity with the Palestinian people. [Text] [(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 p 2 [Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]] /12828

U.S. TELLS BANKS TO HELP MARCOS--Reagan administration officials are silently telling banks in the US and other countries to lend money to the Marcos regime, according to American bankers quoted by the New York Times in November. The rationale, according to the New York Times story, is that the political situation in the Philippines cannot be stabilized and American bases there secured if the economy continues to deteriorate. The Reagan administration, the dispatch added, views the situation as so important that Secretary of State George Schultz, Treasury Secretary James Baker and White House chief of staff Donald Regan have become involved. Each personally undertook to persuade a reluctant Sandi Arabian bank earlier this year to stretch out the Philippine debt and commit new funds, the informants said. "The Philippines are such a political-economic problem, the bases are the No. 1 reason all along why the United States is pushing for more loans," said a New York banker. [Text] [(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 p 2 [Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]] /12828

AUSTRALIAN AID HALT URGED--Various cause-oriented organizations in the Philippines and solidarity groups in different parts of the world have been sending letters to the Australian parliament calling for a halt to all economic, political and military aid to the US-backed Marcos regime. The parliament's sub-committee on the Philippines is scheduled to hold an investigation and public hearings on the Philippine situation and the state of Philippine-Australian relations. "Aid only leads an aura of legitimacy to the Marcos regime whose rule is opposed by most Filipinos," one group wrote to the Australian parliament. It added, "Most foreign assistance are only misused by the dictatorship to control the groundswell of protest of the Filipino people. Such aid should be rechanneled to various organizations and social development institutions that have consistently and unswervingly committed themselves to the cause and interest of the people." [Text] [(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 p 2 [Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]] /12828

NPA PUBLICATION ON OFFENSIVES--In its maiden issue, Pulang Bandila (Red Flag), official publication of the New People's Army, said that incomplete reports put the total of tactical offensives by the NPA at 23 for the first quarter of 1985. In these offensives, the NPA was able to confiscate 754 arms.

The enemy suffered 44 dead, 32 wounded and 173 captured. Casualty on the NPA said was six. The report did not cover partisan operations, counter-offensives and defensive actions. Puland Bandila also said that in the period from April 1984 to March 1985, guerilla attacks by the NPA on the AFP was not less than 526, with a 95% success rate. [Text] [(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 p 2 [Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]] /12828

U.S. NUCLEAR PRESENCE--The Oct. 28 issue of the New York Times reported about a US intelligence officer saying that a nuclear attack submarine and six smaller vessels were berthed at Subic Naval Base. The guided-missile-bearing Sterett has been docked there fore a three-month stint of repairs. Besides being the home port of the Sterett, Subic Base is also a test and training area for the US frigate Francis Hammond. [Text] [(Clandestine) LIBERATION in English Vol I No 5 Nov-Dec 85 p 2 [Official international publication of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines]] /12828

MARCOS LOYALISTS ASKED TO HALT--President Aquino today warned supporters of Mr Marcos to halt all resistance and turn in their arms caches. Those arrested for holding weapons, shredding official documents and committing other irregularities will be dealt with severely. [Text] [Quezon City DZFM Radio in English 1100 GMT 28 Feb 86] /9738

VALENCIA ON SUPREME COURT JUSTICES--The Supreme Court would be setting a very bad precedent by resigning en masse or even to resign individually for reasons political. The last remaining pillar of our constitutional government will then become just another bureau or ministry. The Supreme Court then could be intimidated by whoever is in control of the national government. The Supreme Court will at times be called upon to annual government decisions or rulings. How then can that court function as a constitutional body if it must live in the shadow of the administrators? ["Over a Cup of Coffee" column by Teodoro F. Valencia: "SC Justices Shouldn't Resign"] [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Feb 86 p 4] /9738

COMMUNIST LEADER ON CEASEFIRE--A top communist party leader said in an interview with the (Johns Frank) press that the communist leadership is willing to negotiate a ceasefire with the Aquino government. However, he said, the communist party will insist on keeping the arms of its estimated 16,000 guerillas. He said the ceasefire negotiations will also cover the issue of the U.S. military bases in the country and the promised reforms. The communist leader said a ceasefire could be for 6 months to a year, and will prove President Aquino's sincerity in solving Philippine problems. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0425 GMT 1 Mar 86] /9738

MINING LEADER SEES ECONOMIC UPSWING--Makati's business leaders continue to foresee an upswing in the economy with the assumption of the new president. One optimistic assessment came from Chamber of Mining Industry's President (N.V. Bemon): [Begin Bemon recording] Well, I think I feel about the same way everyone does. The way the election crisis was resolved, the way the so-called revolution was resolved, certainly has earned the admiration of everyone present, and especially of the world. I think that the people of Philippines can now hold their heads up with--well, we've amazed everyone, even the foreign correspondents who were here, in their press reports

to the United States, have spoken about the emotion that resulted during the revolutionary crisis and the way it was resolved. It's put us in the limelight, and certainly this is going to increase confidence everywhere in this country and also abroad. [end recording] [Broadcast on 6170 kHz] [Text] [Quezon City DZFM Radio in English 0400 GMT 28 Feb 86] /9738

NBI DIRECTOR RESIGNS--The National Bureau of Investigations [NBI] today deny reports that there is disruption in the official functions at the bureau due to the resignation of its director. Gerardo Maglaya, acting NBI public relations chief said the processing of clearances of applications both for domestic and foreign purposes goes on. He said although NBI director Jolly Bugarin has tendered his resignation to President Aquino, the resignation did not in any way affect the usual functions of the bureau. [Broadcast on 6167.3 kHz] [Text] [Quezon City DZFM Radio in English 1300 GMT 28 Feb 86] /9738

SECURING GOVERNMENT PROPERTY URGED--Newly appointed information minister Teodoro Locsin Jr today asked key officials in staff of his ministry to secure all assets and equipment of their respective offices. Locsin gave the order this morning during his initial meeting with the ministry's personnel at the media center on Misamis Avenue in Quezon City. He noted that there are reports that some people in the provinces would like to take over government facilities such as broadcast stations. Such property, Locsin stressed, must be preserved for their continued use by the government. Locsin also asked employees of the Office of Media Affairs to stay on their jobs, adding that if there are any changes to be made, these would be aimed at improving efficiency. [Text] [Quezon City DZFM Radio in English 0700 GMT 28 Feb 86] /8309

FORMER GOVERNOR TO RETURN--Former Governor of Cavite (Justiniano Montano Sr), after 13 years in political exile will come back on Friday morning via Philippine Airlines from the United States. [Text] [Quezon City Radio Ng Bayan in English 1445 GMT 26 Feb 86] /8309

CSO: 4200/747

THAILAND

SUPREME COMMAND ON SRV MANEUVERS IN FEBRUARY

BK230742 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 23 Feb 86

/Text/ Reporting on the military situation in Cambodia in the past month, Supreme Command Information Department Director Lt Gen Wichit Bunyawat said Vietnam continued to prepare for military operations against the CGDK forces opposite Ta Phraya District, Prachin Buri Province and in the area where the Thai, Cambodian and Lao borders meet opposite Ubon Ratchathani Province. Vietnamese forces there were rotated, and obstructions and landmines were planted to impede CGDK troop movements as well as the flight of Cambodians to Thailand, particularly in areas opposite Ubon Ratchathani and Sisaket Provinces. No less than two Vietnamese divisions confronted CGDK forces, resulting in more armed incidents in that area. Some Vietnamese elements infiltrated into Thailand, clashing with Thai forces and causing Thai soldiers to step on landmines on several occasions.

Wichit said there were no major military operations along the Thai-Cambodian border, as was the case in past dry seasons, because Vietnamese forces were unable to locate permanent bases of the CGDK forces conducting guerrilla warfare. Also, some Vietnamese forces were moved from the border to the Cambodian interior to defend against CGDK operations deep inside Cambodia.

Meanwhile, Army Secretary Maj Gen Narudon Detpradiyut disclosed that in the past month small Vietnamese units have crossed into Thai territory to operate and plant landmines in several areas of Aranyaprathet District, Prachin Buri Province. Some Vietnamese units also planted landmines and obstructions in Nam Yun District, Ubon Ratchathani Province. These units have already been pushed out of Thailand.

Also, Air Vice Marshal Sommot Sunthorawet, Air Force secretary, disclosed that the air force was asked to conduct air strikes on a platoon of Vietnamese soldiers in Thai territory and Vietnamese artillery positions. Air force planes also provided fire support for Thai ground forces.

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THAILAND

AGRICULTURE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON RICE PRICE POLICY

Bangkok NAEONNA in Thai 11 Jan 86 p 2

[Interview with Mr Narong Wongwan, the minister of agriculture and cooperatives by Khamron Wangwangsi; date and place not specified]

[Excerpt] He is from the north. He was born in Phrae Province 61 years ago. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics and agriculture from the University of Kentucky in the United States. He has been involved in tobacco and timber activities in the northern region. He comes from a very wealthy and respected family. In 1978 he was elected MP, receiving the largest number of votes in the country. In 1983 he was again elected MP, receiving the second largest number of votes in the country. In 1980 he served as deputy minister of interior. He has served as minister of agriculture for two consecutive terms. In just a few months, he will have been minister for 5 full years.

[Question] What is your view on raising the price of paddy to 3,000 baht per kwian [1 kwian equals 2,000 liters]? To date, this has not been very successful.

[Answer] This matter concerns several sectors. It's not a matter of the government taking action and using only public funds. However, this was recommended by the Ministry of Commerce and approved by the cabinet. This also concerns commercial banks and more than 900 rice mills.

It's impossible to complete things in just a day or two. The banks have to determine whether the mills have sufficient credit. They must have rice stocks equal to 30 times production capacity. Thus, I think that we must proceed carefully even if things are delayed somewhat. As for the additional measures of the Ministry of Agriculture, there is nothing that will be binding. We purchase from the farmers directly. As for the Ministry of Commerce's proposal to raise the price of paddy, purchases can be made from people in general. But the mills must maintain a rice stock equal to 30 percent of production capacity.

The Ministry of Agriculture does not have any rice stock stipulations because we purchase directly from the farmers. The added measure calls for only 30 percent. In another 90 days, if the price rises, the farmers will get another 10 percent. The price could rise from 3,000 to 3,300 or 3,500 baht. It depends on market prices. If this measure scores results and if foreign markets improve, prices will probably rise. And if rice prices don't improve, the farmers will receive 3,000 baht.

[Question] Is the problem with the banks, the mills or the exporters?

[Answer] They are involved. There are three to five parties involved. From the farmers to the mills and from the mills to the exporters. And the commercial banks are involved. The amount of money authorized by the national bank for exports is tied to this. The additional measures of the Ministry of Agriculture have a direct bearing on the commercial banks, rice mills and farmers.

[Question] These additional measures will help only some sectors, isn't that right?

[Answer] No. The money earmarked for this in cooperation with the commercial banks will total 2 billion baht initially. The commercial banks will be asked for another 4 billion. The ministry has authorized 500 million for the cooperatives and 300 million for farmer groups. The Ministry of Interior will use another 100 million to help poor farmers.

The Ministry of Commerce has set a target of 7 billion, which makes a total of 13.8 billion baht. That is a large sum of money. Thus, if all sides cooperate, I think that that will be sufficient to get the rice out of the mills. It will be exported, and prices should rise.

[Question] How much longer will farmers have to wait?

[Answer] Not too long. A large percentage of the rice has already been shipped out. By April, the exporters will have shipped all the rice on hand, and the mills will have to find markets.

[Question] But the farmers have already held protest demonstrations.

[Answer] We can't say that "we will forbid them from demonstrating." The government is doing the best it can.

[Question] If they want you to talk with them, will you do so?

[Answer] Of course. I will do my best to explain things to them.

[Question] Our rice is cheap. Is this due in part to the fact that other countries grow much rice? In particular, the United States sells on credit.

[Answer] That is a factor. But based on a Ministry of Commerce report, the people of the world consume more than 4 million kg of Thai rice, which is approximately 40 percent of world rice consumption. No matter how much rice other countries produce, Thai rice will still be sold.

[Question] Won't we ask the United States to show sympathy on this matter?

[Answer] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a note to the U.S. secretary of state about the Farm Bill, which is aimed at helping exports.

[Question] Is it your policy to reduce the amount of land cultivated in rice?

[Answer] That is the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture. At present, the farmers who live in the poverty-stricken areas will remain poor because yields per rai are low. We are looking for substitute crops that will enable them to earn the same income they did from rice, or perhaps an even higher income. We are considering suitable types of crops.

[Question] Are you upset by the fact that in the present situation, instead of working together to solve the rice problem, Minister Koson has criticized you for not cooperating on certain matters?

[Answer] It's not a matter of being upset. The political system is like that. He probably feels frustrated. But actually, the Ministry of Agriculture has cooperated in every way. We have basic measures, and we have implemented additional measures. I am not upset at all.

At the personal level, Minister Koson and I are still close friends. But in the political system, when it comes to maintaining the interests of the farmers or maintaining the interests of the exporters, that is another matter.

The Ministry of Agriculture has coordinated things with them very closely. I don't know what this is all about. I have done everything I can.

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THAILAND

CLERGY, OFFICIAL FEAR WEAKENING OF BUDDHISM

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 23 Jan 86 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] On the afternoon of 22 January at the instruction hall at Wat Samphraya, regional and deputy regional ecclesiastical governors from throughout the country met for the 2d day. Phra Wisutthathibodi, the abbot of Wat Traimit Withayaram and the ecclesiastical governor of the eastern region, gave a sermon on "Developing People." He said that the development of the Sangha's people is a very depressing matter. Even the lay world of 50 million people recognizes that it has not been possible to develop people perfectly in this profession. As for the administration of the Sangha, if the temples are to grow, they must rely on the talents of all people, from abbots to ecclesiastical governors at all levels.

"At present, the regional ecclesiastical governors feel very discouraged. Today, we can do certain things but not others. I want to praise the monks in the Thammayut sect for constantly improving people in appropriate ways. But there are still other problems. Because regardless of what is done, there are splits. This is probably because of traditions that have been handed down. Sometimes it is necessary to be patient and allow things to die out of their own accord," said Phra Wisutthathibodi. He also said that some temples are having serious problems in appointing abbots because of interference by outsiders, who use strange methods. For example, people march in force to the monks' quarters and say that they will not accept this or that monk. If the Sangha's people are gullible or incompetent, this could be dangerous.

During the conference, Mr Mongkhon Siphraiwan, the director-general of the Department of Religious Affairs, said that Buddhism is threatened from both the outside and the inside. The internal threat stems from the fact that some monks and novices do not conduct themselves properly. After being ordained, some monks are not interested in studying. Besides this, some monks predict the outcome of the lottery. Some monks take to the road [as a form of meritmaking] but go to Bangkok, which is highly improper. As for the threat from without, some people are destroying the religion by posing as monks and seeking personal profit. They solicit contributions and humble themselves before women. Besides that, some monks have split away and set up new sects outside the control of the Thai Sangha. They do not follow the code of discipline and have sown confusion among the people. At Hubphasawan, disciples continue to meet regularly. Officials are keeping an eye on their activities.

Mr Mongkhon said that he had had a chance to chat with the governor of Phayao Province. The situation is very alarming because certain Christian denominations are seeking converts. They are paying people to convert. He does not view that with contempt, but that is what they are doing. Those engaged in this claim that things have improved in those areas because the people there have converted to Christianity. What is worrisome is that Buddhism will no longer be the national religion. In the next 10 to 20 years, could Thailand become another Indonesia, where Buddhism once flourished but has now declined?

The director-general of the Department of Religious Affairs said that today, there are highly knowledgeable people who make the criticism that other monks do not have as much knowledge as they do. This has led to splits within the Sangha, and the situation is growing worse. For example, Santi Asoke has grown greatly during the past 10 years. It is winning converts. Santi Asoke has announced that it is not under the control of the Thai Sangha. This is an omen that shows how the younger generation view religion. Or things might become like they are in Japan, where many young people do not follow any religion.

Mr Mongkhon said that in the past, it was the villagers who built the temples. But now, it is usually monks who build temples so that they can serve as abbots. He said that the religious activities held on important days at such places as Wat Phra Thammakai and Wat Thammongkhon and in Chumphon are conducted in very strange ways. Some have criticized that people have been pressed too hard for contributions. He has received a report stating that contributions at Wat Thammongkhon reached several million baht. It is worth thinking about whether such activities will have a positive or negative effect on Buddhism. The governor of Chumphon Province feels that the results are positive.

Phra Thepsumethi, the ecclesiastical governor of Region 10, who administers Sangha affairs in Ubon Ratchathani, Nakhon Phanom, Mukdahan, Yasothon and Sisaket provinces, presented a report at the conference. He said that in remote areas, proselytizers from one Christian denomination are waging an all-out effort to convert people using all the resources at their disposal. They have gained control over almost all the poor people.

"If we sit back and ignore this as at present, Thailand will become a Christian country. There will no longer be temples, vihans, chedis or Buddha images. These will be replaced by the cross. I think that we should do something to prevent this," said Phra Thepsumethi.

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LABOR LEADER ON MOVEMENT UNITY, GOALS

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 27 Jan 86 p 3

[Interview with Mr Thanong Pho-an, the president of the Employees' Council of the Labor Congress of Thailand; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] In the coming period, will the labor movement become more quiescent or more active?

[Answer] In 1986 and 1987, I don't think that the labor movement will be as dormant as it was this last year. There will be greater activity. I think that there will be greater coopertion among the various labor councils. The economic situation is exerting great pressure. Employees are being furloughed or dismissed. This will promote greater solidarity among employees. Time will tell how much solidartity there is. But the labor councils are now working resolutely to help the employees.

[Question] If the movement becomes more active, what form will the activities take? In the past, there have been demonstrations.

[Answer] Stress must be placed on educating people. We may coordinate things with employers in making use of our customs and traditions to promote better labor relations. Because today, we feel that just negotiating and making demands.... If employers just dismiss people, that is not fair. We have used this method at several places and achieved good results even though we were just testing this method. This year, I think that we will have to make a greater effort to educate labor leaders about methods in order to halt dismissals.

[Question] Achan Nikhom Chantharawithun has indicated that the movement will be rather inactive because workers won't dare join a union out of fear of losing their jobs. This is because employers tend to distrust employees who are members of unions.

[Answer] Achan Nikhom may think that. But today, regardless of whether employees belong to labor unions or not, their fate will be the same. Because of this, they will have to seek protection. Those places that do not have labor unions will establish unions. The employers are now more knowledgeable about the labor unions. If there is a labor union, it is easier to increase

productivity. We may be able to reach an understanding with the progressive employers.

[Question] Does that mean that the movement must change based on the situation?

[Answer] In the past, we negotiated for 5 days and then called for a strike unless results were achieved within the next 24 hours. We probably won't use such techniques any more. There will probably be greater cooperation. For example, if results haven't been achieved after 5 days of negotiations, we will look for a new way to reach a compromise. There will probably be several rounds of negotiations. We will use delaying tactics. Because today, employees understand things; they are much smarter. In the past, they did not understand and so called for strikes. The employers took that opportunity to shut down the factories. By compromising, we can solve many of the problems.

[Question] Besides the economic factor, are there any other factors that will promote greater activity in the labor movement?

[Answer] Today, several labor councils, particularly the Employees' Council of the Labor Congress of Thailand and the Labor Federation, are trying to take action on the matter of social insurance. We are trying to make this a reality during the term of the current administration. We feel that social insurance is an important problem in the present situation. This is because salaries have not risen, the minimum wage has remained the same and welfare services have been reduced. Thus, the state should provide social welfare benefits to employees. There is a great difference between unemployment in Thailand and unemployment abroad, particularly in the developed countries. Unemployment in Thailand affects the entire system and trade declines. But unemployed people in the developed countries receive compensation. Even though they may not have a job, they have an income. The other systems are not affected.

[Question] A full social welfare system requires a huge sum of money. It would be very difficult to obtain that much money. Is there a way out?

[Answer] Actually, that would not require a huge sum of money. We could transfer some or all of the 700-800 million baht now in the compensation fund. We could also obtain some of the money from the employees, perhaps 2 or 3 percent of their wages. The employers and government could also contribute funds. I don't think it would require too much money. The government can't say that it doesn't have enough money. By putting up money, the government would not be losing anything. Interest can be earned on the money that is not used. And providing unemployed people with an income is tantamount to creating other jobs. Because when these people are given compensation, they will use the money to purchase goods. Industry will sell more. Most employees agree, too. But this must be done on a broad scale. This should not be just for those who are sick. Normally, people who are ill already receive compensation. I would like to see this apply to the unemployed and the aged.

[Question] Some have suggested that social insurance be implemented gradually. For example, a health insurance act could be promulgated first. Other sectors could then be covered later. What do you think about this?

[Answer] The idea is to provide insurance sector by sector and gradually expand the program. I support this. If all sectors are included, including unemployment, it will be a huge program. The government feels that huge sums of money will be needed and so does not support this. However, if small or medium-sized programs are proposed, there will be a greater chance of obtaining support from the government.

[Question] A large number of people were laid off last year. Labor Department figures show that 50,000 people were dismissed. Chamber of Commerce figures indicate that 100,000 people were laid off. Will these lay offs weaken the labor movement? Because when laborers are laid off, membership in the labor unions will decline.

[Answer] Very few of the 100,000 people who were laid off were members of labor unions. Only about 4,000-5,000 were members. The other places of work did not have labor unions. Also, people left work for a variety of reasons. Some voluntarily retired before the age of 55. Those who have worked for more than 20 years receive 100,000 baht in compensation and so they can start their own small business. Very few labor union members, most of whom earn only a minimum wage or just slightly higher, have been dismissed.

[Question] After the group of Mr Ahmat Khamthetthong left the Labor Congress, what effect did this have on the labor movement? Was the effect positive or negative?

[Answer] I don't think this had any negative effects. After he left, things improved for the Labor Congress. We don't want to be under the influence of any group. Today, the Labor Congress is a unified organization and is not under the influence of anyone. I think this will be more beneficial. This can be seen from the membership fees and the people who have joined us. There is now greater solidarity. In particular, we can now cooperate more with the federation. The response from the federation is better. Many factions approve of this.

[Question] Has your image improved?

[Amswer] Definitely. All factions accept us. This is because there is no one behind the new committee members.

[Question] What do you think of waging a struggle for the laborers based on the labor unionist line of Mr Phaisan Thawatchainan? Are there better ways, such as political methods?

[Answer] Actually, labor unionism or labor unionism and politics go together. It just depends on which one we put first. It must be recognized that as far as the labor union line is concerned, we are stressing "mouth and stomach" issues. But this cannot really solve the problems. Real solutions lead to politics. The only question is which we place first. We cannot get away from politics. Even if we do not play politics, politics plays with us every time.

We cannot get away from the political system, particularly elections. Each time, the government must encourage the people to exercise their right to vote.

[Question] What about Mr Ahmat's attempt to use a labor party as a spearhead in the struggle?

[Answer] At the present time, I don't think that workers have enough bargaining power to establish a labor party, and their economic position is not strong enough. In a parliamentary election, everyone has legal rights. But they don't have any chance of being elected. As we all know, getting elected today requires a lot of money. Thus, we are just a political pressure group. But I am not sure what will happen in the future after politics changes. The political system might develop into a system such as that found in England, Israel or Australia if our movement has sufficient solidarity and strength.

[Question] Recently, the position of the Employees' Council has deteriorated greatly. What plans do you have for rebuilding the council?

[Answer] It must be admitted that the council's position really has deteriorated. But things did not begin to deteriorate just recently. This began in 1981 when Mr Phaisan left, taking some members with him. And then in 1984 the group of Mr Phanat Thailuan walked out. By 1985, before Mr Ahmat became entangled in the 9 September rebellion, the council had reached its low point. Many people felt that we were not using the right methods. Many people were indifferent to the Labor Congress. But since the changes made on 17 November 1985, things have improved. New members have joined, and older members who did not pay their dues have returned. From a low of only 40 labor unions, there are now more than 70. We have approached about 20 others. I think that things will improve.

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THAILAND

HONORARY CONSULATES TO LOBBY AGAINST FARM BILL

Bangkok NAEQ NA in Thai 29 Jan 86 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Seven Honorary Consul Generals Appointed in the United States To Lobby Against the Farm Bill and Stimulate Investments"]

[Text] Last Tuesday, the cabinet authorized the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to raise the rank of six honorary consuls in the United States to the rank of "honorary consul general." Thus, almost all of the Thai honorary consulates in eight major U.S. cities are now headed by honorary consul generals. The cabinet also authorized the appointment of a ninth honorary consul general in San Francisco.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs official who wishes to remain anonymous told NAEQ NA that "this was done in order to improve the morale and increase the prestige of these honorary consuls. All of these individuals are American citizens who have done much to benefit Thailand." Besides this, another objective is to increase investments, trade and tourism from the United States.

This official said that raising the rank of the six honorary consuls stemmed in part because of the effect that several trade bills are having on Thailand. In particular, the Farm Bill would have a serious effect on Thai rice exports. He said that "these consul generals will serve both as advisors and as lobbyists who will work to protect Thailand's interests."

"When the prime minister was in New York last October, he held a meeting with all the honorary consuls and honorary consul generals. That was when Thailand was confronted with the Jenkins Bill. The honorary consuls were of great help to Thailand, and the results were very satisfying," said this official.

The cabinet approved in principle appointing Mr Charles R. Schwab, the founder and president of the Charles Schwab Company, honorary consul general in San Francisco, the most important port on the west coast of the United States. This honorary consulate should help Thailand promote trade and investments.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs official said that Mr Schwab, who is a very well-known financier, will visit Bangkok at the end of February in order to receive his appointment from the Thai government. His appointment will be final when the Reagan administration gives its approval.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has proposed appointing Mr Robert F. Henry Jr. honorary consul general in place of Col Carl Raymond Carlson, who has asked to resign his position as honorary consul in Montgomery, Alabama. It has been proposed that the honorary consul in that city be upgraded to honorary consul general and the cabinet has given its approval.

The other five honorary consuls whose status has been raised to honorary consul general are: Mr Mark C. Stevens in Detroit, Michigan; Mr Charles, H. Levell in El Paso, Texas; Mr Arthur Q. David in New Orleans, Louisiana; Mr John Latchow in Kansas, Missouri; and Mr Edwin M. Stanley in Portland, Oregon.

At present, Thailand has two honorary consul generals in Hawaii and Washington. There are three Thai consulates in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. After the appointment of the 9th honorary consul general, Thailand will have a total of 12 consulates in 10 different important states in the United States.

The position of honorary consul general is an honorary position. The person holding this position does not receive a salary or any other compensation from the Thai government. However, these honorary consulates derive an income from fees charged for various consular activities, such as issuing Thai tourist or transit visas to foreigners. They do this under the supervision of the Thai embassy in Washington D.C.

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THAILAND

WEEKLY SUPPORTS ROLE OF NEW POLITICAL PARTIES

BK231027 Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 23 Feb 86 p 2

/Editorial: "For the Sake of the System or Individuals"/

/Text/ At present, there are 20 political parties legally established in Thailand. They are Puangchon Chao Thai, Pracha Seri, Democrat, Saha Chat, Chat Thai, Prachakon Thai, Chat Prachathipatai, Phalang Mai, Social Action, Pracharat, Raeng Ngan Prachathipatai, Seri Niyom, Sangkhom Prachathipatai, Sayam Prachathipatai, Pracha Thai, Kaona, Rak Thai, Prachathipatai, Kasetkon, and Muanchon parties. Meanwhile, Phatthana Chonnabot and Prachachon parties are under the process of registration.

However, only 9 parties have their members sitting in the National Assembly, and only 5 of them have more than 10 members in the House of Representatives. The four others have one to three MP's under their banners. Further study reveals that only four parties could afford to send members to run in the 1983 general election with more than half of the total number of seats in the House of the Representatives as stipulated in the constitution. These parties are the Social Action, That Thai, Democrat, and Prachakon Thai parties. Candidates from small parties and independent candidates were allowed to contest the 1983 general election under the provisional clause of the constitution thus making it difficult for any single party to win a majority in the House.

The present House of Representatives has just over 1 year left before its term expires which will lead to another general election in April 1987, provided that the Parliament is not dissolved before that. Some individuals have reportedly planned to set up new political parties to field their candidates in the upcoming general election.

The moves to set up new political parties are correct, noteworthy, and democratic practice because at least they represent the constitutional way to engage in politics and give a wider opportunity for the people to choose political parties which can most suit their needs.

Thoroughly considering news reports on movements of founders of the new parties, one can see that nearly all of them only want candidates under their banners to win the next general election. They approach popular personalities and MP's of different parties and persuade them to run in the next general

election under their party banner. They even offer money to finance election campaigns or promise to give ministerial posts if they can form their own government. So far, nobody has ever informed the people about the differences between their policies and those of the existing political parties. We fear that some people might mistake their initiatives as a move to seek power for some individuals to rule the country, not to provide an opportunity for people to choose parties with different policies to promote the political party system and democracy.

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THAILAND

BRIEFS

REPORT ON SEIZED CAMP--Col Chamnong Phairot, commander of the combined civilian-police-military unit 43, reported to the 4th Army Region on Friday morning about the search of a seized camp of the Communist Party of Malaya /CPM/. He said that authorities had discovered a food supply storage bin about 300 meters from the seized camp. There is an open area inside the camp, which is believed to be used for meetings with villagers. North of the camp they also found a tunnel--1 meter wide, 1.70 meters deep, and 30 meters long. Inside the tunnel, authorities found three sets of trip wire, eight food containers, and a bag containing Chinese-language political documents. The authorities burned all of them. At 1000 on 20 February, 4th Army Region Commander Lt Gen Wanchai Chitchamlong visited an operation post of the Thai task force in Betong District to inspect the Thai-Malaysian joint military operation along the border under joint operation plan 8601 which began 2 weeks ago. About 10 Thai soldiers so far have been wounded by landmines planted by CPM guerrillas. But, they were able to seize several CPM camps. /Text/ /Bangkok NAEON in Thai 22 Feb 86 p 16 BK/ 12228

IRANIAN, JAPANESE ENVOY--The king on 13 February granted two separate audiences to the new Iranian ambassador, Reza Hoseyn Mirza-Taheri, and the new Japanese ambassador, Akitane Kiuchi. Both ambassadors presented their credentials as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Thailand with residence in Bangkok. /Summary/ /Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 13 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

ASSISTANCE FROM FRANCE--An agreement was signed between Thailand and France on 19 February under which the French Government will provide assistance for two projects in Thailand. The first involves organizational structuring of radar operations for air traffic control. The second is a feasibility study on radar installation at the airport in Phuket Province. Communications Minister Samak Sunthorawet and the representative of Sofreavia Company signed on behalf of their respective countries. The French Government will provide grant aid for the feasibility studies of the two projects. The projects will benefit Thailand's air traffic security as well as help coordinate control of air traffic with the radar system of the Aeronautical Radio Company of Thailand. /Bangkok Television Service in Thai 1230 GMT 19 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

SUPREME COMMANDER HAILS CGDK EFFECTIVENESS--The Supreme Command Information Office has stated that the CGDK forces' victories in their current operations

in Cambodia indicate that the Cambodian people have are giving more support to the CGDK side, enabling its forces to infiltrate deeper into the country while the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin side is confronting heavy opposition to its attempt to occupy Cambodia as both its military and political operations are unexpectedly facing greater obstacles. It is certain that in the future Vietnam will have to fight a difficult war against the people. During 12-19 February, CGDK forces continuously developed themselves and sent more infiltration units deep inside Cambodia. The infiltrators worked effectively in the areas of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Battambang, and Kompong Chhnang Provinces. They have successfully expanded their operational zone, which has led to the escalation of fighting in the inner areas of Cambodia. Such operations have caused numerous problems and difficulties to the Vietnamese side and forces the latter to resort to aerial support for its ground troops, who are now fighting the CGDK side in many localities, and to withdraw five or six infantry divisions from the border areas to reinforce troops inside Cambodia and to defend towns and major logistic routes. Meanwhile, the remaining CGDK forces along the Thai border have scattered themselves to avoid attacks by larger Vietnamese units, which is why the fighting along the Thai-Cambodian border this year has been less violent than in the past. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 23 Feb 86 BK] 12228

MEETING WITH DPRK PARTY OFFICIAL--Secretary General of the DPRK Workers Party Central Committee Kim Hwan, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinlulanon at Government House today at 1400. The Korean visitor is on an official visit to Thailand at the invitation of the deputy prime minister. Mr Kim Hwan said that his visit is aimed at consolidating the existing friendly ties, especially trade ties, between Thailand and North Korea. North Korea has considered buying a large amount of agricultural products from Thailand. On international relations, he said North Korea supports the idea of making Southeast Asia a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality, and supports the ASEAN approach to solving the Cambodia problem. The prime minister welcomed Mr Kim Hwan's visit to Thailand. He hoped to see growing trade cooperation between the two countries. The prime minister also asked the visitor about progress in the reunification of Korea, saying he hoped to see a peaceful reunification of North and South Korea. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 20 Feb 86 BK] 12228

CHEMICAL WARFARE EQUIPMENT--On the 15th anniversary of the founding of the army Chemical Department on 26 January, Gen Athit Kamlangek, the supreme commander and RTA CINC, presided at a ceremony to open a new chemistry and physics building that is equipped with modern scientific equipment for the testing and analysis of more than 15,000 types of chemicals. Also, data is available on more than 38,000 types of chemicals. This is essential in a nuclear war. It is essential to be able to identify the chemicals used by the enemy in order to use the data to counter the enemy. This can also be used in the industrial sector and in fighting pollution. On this occasion, Gen Athit granted an interview to reporters. He said that he will have the Chemical Department conduct studies on bags or other items in which possible toxic materials, such as leaves or branches from along the border that may have come in contact with poisonous substances, can be placed for shipment to the laboratory. The purpose of this is to prevent the toxic substance from coming off before the material reaches the laboratory. Officials will be taught how to collect such materials. Also, gas masks will be made. Members of the police fire brigade have a great need for such masks. And people can use them to protect themselves when using insecticides. [Text] [Bangkok NAEON in Thai 27 Jan 86 pp 1, 2] 11943

PHICHLAI ON DEMOCRAT POLL COSTS--Mr Phichai Rattakun, the deputy prime minister and leader of the Democrat Party, talked with reporters on 25 January. He said that he is very concerned about the cost of fielding candidates in the next general election. If 300 candidates run for election and expenses total 100,000 baht per candidate, that comes to a total of 30 million baht. In the 1983 general election, the party fielded 197 candidates and spent 16 million baht. The leader of the Democrat Party said that Democrat MPs from the northern, central and northeastern regions have already met to discuss the general election. Next week, MPs from the south will meet. Mr Phichai said that the party must make preparations for the general election. The Democrat Party has been making preparations for more than a year now. [Excerpt] [Bangkok NAEON in Thai 26 Jan 86 p 16] 11943

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PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES 'REACTIONARY' HOSTILITY

BK210416 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Feb 86

/PRACHEACHON Editorial: "Trying to Swim Against the Current" /

/Text/ Since the beginning of 1986 Beijing has vigorously intensified its hostile policy, through words and activities, against the SRV.

During his visit at the beginning of the year to Hoang Sa /Paracel/ islands-- Vietnam's territory illegally seized by the Chinese aggressors in 1974--Chinese Party Chairman Hu Yaobang stated in a bellicose way that China would oppose Vietnam to the end. The Beijing authorities are now escalating their hostile activities against Vietnam. They have sent more troops to the Sino-Vietnamese border and intensified their occupation there and provocations against Vietnam by repeatedly shelling Vietnamese territory in an attempt to maintain tension along the common border. In response to Vietnam's good will in proposing a ceasefire during the traditional lunar new year of the Vietnamese and Chinese people and to Vietnam's humanitarian attitude in releasing 8 Chinese fishermen rescued at sea by Vietnam and 15 other Chinese nationals arrested for illegal entry into Vietnam, on 28 January 1986 the Beijing authorities ordered their troops to fire more than 40,000 cannon rounds and mortar shells into 44 populated areas in Ha Tuyen, Hoang Lien Son, and Lai Chau provinces and sent their infantry to invade various areas in Vi Xuyen District of Ha Tuyen Province while people in these areas were living peacefully and preparing to celebrate the traditional new year.

In cooperation with Beijing, the Thai reactionary rulers have caused tension along the Thai-Lao border and aided the Cambodian and Lao reactionaries inside Thai territory. The Thai authorities have also bought modern radar worth \$71 million and installed it near the Thai-Cambodian border. They have increased reconnaissance activities by sending aircraft to fly into our airspace and have continued to aid the activities of the Cambodian reactionary groups along the Thai-Cambodian border. Thailand has accused Vietnamese troops of invading Thai territory and has threatened to take retaliatory measures by launching cross-border attacks on positions manned by the Vietnamese volunteer army. Moreover, the Thai authorities have accused Lao troops of invading a Thai village and of sending aircraft on reconnaissance flights in Thai airspace.

All these hostile activities clearly show that the international reactionary forces, particularly the Beijing hegemonist-expansionists and the ultrarightists in the Thai ruling circles have not abandoned their maneuvers to sabotage the revolution in the three Indochinese countries. These hostile activities also show that due to the serious defeats suffered by the Cambodian reactionary forces along the Cambodian-Thai border during the 1984-85 dry season and due to the fact that China has failed to give a second lesson to Vietnam as threatened by the reactionary Beijing leaders, the Cambodian reactionaries have come to realize that China is not a firm supporter of them. For this reason, China and Thailand have made every effort in their hostile policy against Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos to boost the morale of the Cambodian reactionary groups and Lao reactionaries.

Many countries in this region and around the world want negotiations between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries to be held in order to seek an appropriate political solution to the Cambodian problem, thereby contributing to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Regional and world opinion has broadly welcomed and supported all the reasonable proposals made by the Indochinese countries as mentioned during the 11th and 12th conferences of the foreign ministers of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. This trend runs totally counter to the desire of China and the international reactionary forces, which have attempted to sabotage the revolution in the three Indochinese countries and to create instability in Southeast Asia. This is why Beijing and its lackeys--the reactionary forces--have kept causing tension in this region in order to obstruct the trend of dialogue.

Facts over the past 7 years clearly show that the policy of confrontation pursued by China, the United States, and some ASEAN countries has failed. Despite vigorous sabotage attempts by its enemies, the Cambodian revolution has surmounted the most difficult period and is advancing more firmly with each passing day. Fraternal Vietnam and Laos have firmly defended themselves and made great achievements in building their new societies. Although the Beijing expansionists and other reactionary forces have turned a blind eye to these facts and will stubbornly try to swim against the current by resorting to whatever dangerous and perfidious maneuvers, all they can do is to cause some problems for us. They can never reverse the situation. They will certainly drown in the current.

Having experienced the protracted and cruel war and the destruction of our country by the Pol Pot clique, our people--like the fraternal Vietnamese and Lao people--want peace in order to rebuild our country. However, we know well that the reactionary forces will not put down their arms. They will abandon their dark design only when they have no force to carry out this design. Therefore, besides pledging to /words indistinct/ the good-will stand defined in the 11th and 12th conferences of the Cambodian, Lao, and Vietnamese foreign ministers and the recent statement of Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers and foreign minister, our armed forces and people must heighten their vigilance, strive to build firm revolutionary forces in all aspects, and particularly stimulate the drive to attack the enemies and movement to persuade misled persons to return to the revolution, thus firmly defending our revolutionary achievements, ensuring the peaceful life of the people, and causing greater, more serious defeats to the enemies to the point of total doom. Only by doing so will the hostile forces be compelled to abandon their maneuvers against the revolution in the three Indochinese countries, in general, and the revolution in Cambodia, in particular.

PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

CHEA SOTH SPEAKS AT USSR-AIDED VOCATIONAL CENTER

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/Text/ The Education Ministry held a ceremony on 19 February to rename the Toek Thla Vocational Training Center as the PRK-USSR Friendship Vocational Training Center. The ceremony was presided over by Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of planning. Attending the ceremony were the comrades minister and deputy ministers of educations, the comrade Soviet ambassador to Cambodia, and many Soviet specialists and professors.

According to a speech made by Comrade Pen Navouth, alternate member of the party Central Committee and minister of education, this training center was built in 1962. During the Pol Pot regime, the center was turned into a warehouse for storing and producing weapons for use in serving the insane hegemony of the Beijing expansionists. The Pol Pot clique also destroyed and burned down classrooms, buildings, laboratories, workshops, books, and documents on vocational subjects. After the liberation day on 7 January 1979, thanks to the moral and material assistance from the USSR, including the Soviet specialists and professors, the center was repaired and reopened in 1981.

According to the comrade minister of education, each year this center receives about 200-300 students. During the current 5th school year, 442 have graduated from the center. The graduates are now working in various factories and enterprises. The center, equipped with modern tools and educational materials, gives vocational training on 12 subjects.

Speaking on the same occasion, Comrade Chea Soth expressed profound thanks to the Soviet party, government, and people as well as the Soviet specialists and professors for giving moral and material support and assistance to the PRK in its national defense and construction, particularly their assistance in repairing and enabling this vocational training center to function successfully. The comrade exhorted all students to study hard so as to gain knowledge for contribution to national defense and construction, thus making our country prosperous and advance rapidly on the road toward socialism.

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CSO: 4212/61

PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

PRACHEACHON MARKS VIENTIANE SUMMIT ANNIVERSARY

BK231001 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT 23 Feb 86

/Text/ Phnom Penh, 23 Feb (SPK)--"The spirit of the Vientiane Indochinese summit conference always remains for the three Indochinese countries as a force in their struggle for the construction and defense of socialism in their respective fatherland," said the biweekly PRACHEACHON (the people) in an editorial dedicated to the third anniversary of this event.

The journal noted that 3 years ago, on 23 February 1983, the summit conference of the three Indochinese countries was held in Vientiane (Laos) to take appropriate measures for the strengthening of solidarity and allround cooperation among the three countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect in conformity with the fervent desire of their peoples and with their longstanding traditions of solidarity. This historic summit, the journal stressed, also constitutes a new step of development of the struggle waged by the three Indochinese nations for national independence and freedom, and is an active contribution to the defense of peace, democracy, and social progress in Southeast Asia and the world.

The journal expressed satisfaction with the sense of responsibility displayed by each of the three Indochinese countries in the implementation of the Vientiane summit resolutions for the common cause of national defense and reconstruction on the basis of genuine patriotism and socialist internationalism.

"For the Cambodian people," the journal affirmed, "the Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos strategic alliance that has incessantly strengthened during the past 3 years has greatly helped them in the spirit of this summit to record more brilliant victories in all fields."

"The Cambodian party, army, and people as a whole warmly hail the third anniversary of the Vientiane summit conference and pledge to spare no efforts to constantly strengthen the strategic alliance among the three Indochinese countries while holding aloft the banner of national union and genuine socialist internationalist solidarity in order to advance the Cambodian revolution, as well as that of the three countries, toward total victory for the cause of socialism," the journal said in conclusion.

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PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 17-23 FEBRUARY

BK240600 Editorial Report Cambodian media monitored by Bangkok Bureau carried the following reports on agricultural developments during the reporting period 17-23 February:

National level: Phnom Penh SPK in English at 1108 GMT on 22 February reports that in the first half of February, teams of tractor operators tilled some 2,000 hectares of land, including 610 hectares in Svay Rieng Province, 600 hectares in Pursat, 470 hectares in Kompong Chhnang, and 130 hectares in Battambang Province. The Agriculture Ministry will send 132 more tractors and 170 operators to Prey Veng, Kompong Thom, and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Provinces. For this dry season cropping, the ministry plans to mechanically plough 133,000 hectares of land. SPK in English at 1144 GMT on 20 February reports that last year, peasants in Cambodia turned 37,800 hectares of waste-land into rice fields, 16,000 hectares of which are good soil. Svay Rieng Province took the lead by reclaiming 6,000 hectares, next were the provinces of Prey Veng, Takeo, and Kampot with 4,110 hectares, 3,110 hectares, and 2,000 hectares respectively. Stung Treng Province and Kompong Som City also exceeded the plan by reclaiming respectively 860 hectares and 1,360 hectares of the 200 hectares and 400 hectares plans. Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 19 February reports that by the end of January, fishermen throughout the country caught 28,000 metric tons of fish. This is almost 1,000 metric tons more than the amount they caught at the same time last year.

Kandal Province: SPK in French at 1224 GMT on 17 February reports that so far, peasants in Ponhea Loe District of Kandal Province have transplanted more than 3,100 hectares of dry season rice, fulfilling 80 percent of the production plan for this season. They also planted 195 hectares of subsidiary food crops. The radio at 0430 GMT on 18 February reports that by early February, peasants in Kaoh Thom District of Kandal Province had transplanted almost 2,900 hectares of dry season rice and planted more than 3,500 hectares of subsidiary food crops. This year's planned dry season rice production is 7,300 hectares.

Battambang Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 22 February reports that by end of January, peasants in the province sold more than 10,000 metric tons of paddy to the state. SPK in English at 1114 GMT on 21 February reports that in the last monsoon, due to unfavorable weather, peasants in Battambang Province planted rice on 187,000 hectares of land or only 60 percent of the plan, including 17,500 hectares of the IR-36 variety.

They also covered 8,100 hectares with industrial and subsidiary food crops. The province keeps 170,700 cattle, an increase of 21 percent over last year's figure. The province also produced some 2,400 cubic meters of timber and cared for 15,700 young teak trees. About 3,600 metric tons of fish were caught and 640 metric tons of fries were raised. Peasants in the province also turned 1,700 hectares of wasteland into rice fields.

Kompong Cham Province: The radio at 0430 GMT on 22 February reports that from the beginning of the dry season to 20 January, peasants in Kang Means District of Kompong Cham Province had transplanted almost 1,200 hectares of rice and planted 300 hectares of subsidiary food crops and 430 hectares of industrial crops. The dry season rice production plan is 2,800 hectares. The radio at 1300 GMT on 20 February reports that Kompong Cham Province had by end of January purchased more than 5,700 metric tons of paddy and received more than 930 metric tons in patriotic contributions from local people. SPK in English at 0440 GMT on 18 February reports that by early this month peasants in Kompong Siem District of Kompong Cham Province had transplanted rice on 1,000 hectares or 90 percent of the area earmarked for this dry season. Besides rice, peasants had covered 1,160 hectares with tobacco and 500 hectares with subsidiary food crops.

Kompong Chhnang Province: The radio at 0430 GMT on 22 February reports that by the end of January, peasants in Kompong Tralach District of Kompong Chhnang Province had sold almost 900 metric tons of paddy to the state. The radio at 0430 GMT on 20 February reports that up to the beginning of February, peasants in Kompong Chhnang Province had harvested more than 40,000 hectares of rainy season rice with average yield of over 1 metric ton per hectare, sown more than 863 hectares of rice, and transplanted more than 2,000 hectares of all types of rice. SPK in French at 1224 GMT on 17 February reports that by the beginning of February peasants in Kompong Chhnang Province had completed harvesting rice on 37,250 hectares of land planted last rainy season, transplanted 2,860 hectares of dry season rice, and planted more than 3,300 hectares of subsidiary food crops.

Kompong Thom Province: SPK in English at 1110 GMT on 21 February reports that Stong District of Kompong Thom Province has 38,000 hectares of arable land. In the 1985 dry season, peasants covered 16,900 hectares with the high-yielding IR-36 and IR-42 varieties and 675 other hectares with subsidiary food crops. They sold 91 metric tons of surplus rice to the state.

Kampot Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 21 February reports that up to the end of January, fishermen in Kampot Province had caught more than 250 metric tons of fish, more than 70 metric tons of prawn, and more than 160 metric tons of crabs. SPK in French at 1224 GMT on 17 February reports that by the end of January, peasants in Angkor Chey District had sold more than 300 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Kompong Speu Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 18 February reports that after harvesting more than 4,000 hectares of monsoon rice, peasants in Thpong District of Kompong Speu Province had retilled 30 hectares of dry season rice by mid-February. The radio at 1300 GMT on

21 February reports that up to the end of January, peasants in Kompong Speu Province had sown 260 hectares of dry season rice and transplanted more than 1,100 hectares of rice. The radio at 1300 GMT on 23 February reports that by early February, peasants in this province had sold more than 2,100 metric tons of paddy to the state and had gave 2,800 metric tons of rice in patriotic contributions.

Kratie Province: SPK in French at 0403 GMT on 23 February reports that in January, the veterinary service in Kratie Province vaccinated more than 2,245 oxen and buffaloes against epizootic diseases. The radio at 0430 GMT on 22 February reports that veterinary service in Kratie Province vaccinated 2,090 cattle against epizootic diseases in 1 month at the beginning of 1986.

Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province: SPK in French at 0420 GMT on 21 February reports that so far, peasants in Puok District of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province had sown rice on 840 of the 3,200 hectares of land earmarked for this dry season.

Stung Treng Province: SPK in English at 1129 GMT on 29 February reports that during the last monsoon season, peasants in Stung Treng Province planted 7,570 hectares of rice and 1,880 hectares of subsidiary food and industrial crops. The number of cattle in the province now rises to 17,670 head.

Takeo Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 22 February reports that by 24 January, peasants in Prey Kabbas District had sold almost 430 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Prey Veng Province: SPK in English at 0440 GMT on 18 February reports that by last month peasants in Peam Rou District of Prey Veng Province put 2,000 hectares under rice for this dry season. This represented 45 percent of the planned hectarage. Peasants also planted 1,680 hectares of maize, beans, tobacco, and vegetables. The district's agricultural service supplied peasants with 500 metric tons of chemical fertilizer and 500 liters of insecticide.

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PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

BRIEFS

'BANDITS' PUT OUT OF ACTION--Forever, our armed forces and people always in close cooperation with the fraternal Vietnamese Army volunteers are ready to intercept and crush all intrusions everywhere both along the border and in the interior, causing the enemy one shameful defeat after another. According to figures received from various battlefields in the past week, in 32 battles our armed forces in cooperation with the Vietnamese Army volunteers put out of action 236 Pol Pot remnant bandits and other reactionary Cambodian soldiers. Of these, we killed on the spot 116, wounded 52, captured 15, and persuaded 53 enemy soldiers to abandon the enemy ranks and return to the national society. We seized 57 assorted weapons, 881 assorted rounds of ammunition, and a quantity of war materiel. /Excerpt/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 20 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

LAO MINISTER THANKED FOR GREETINGS--Comrade Hun Sen, foreign minister of the PRK, recently sent a message of thanks to Comrade Phoum Sipaseut, foreign minister of the LPDR, for his greetings on PRK National Day. The message noted: I and my colleagues would like to express our most sincere and profound thanks to you for your best wishes extended to me, my colleagues, and the Cambodian people on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the PRK National Day. We are happy to see that the fraternal friendship, special militant solidarity, and allround cooperation between our two parties, governments, and people of Cambodia and Laos have developed ceaselessly, thus contributing to the struggle for peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world. /Text/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

PREY VENG RETURNEES--In 1985, many women in Prey Veng Province persuaded 51 misled persons to return to the fold and brought with them 6 weapons and some ammunition and war materiel. /Summary/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

KOMPONG THOM, PURSAT RETURNEES--In January, authorities and people in Kompong Thom Province persuaded 61 Pol Pot and 6 sereika soldiers to return to the fold, bringing with them 30 weapons. Another 20 misled persons presented themselves to authorities in Thmar Puok District, Battambang Province, bringing with them 7 AK's, a B-60, and some war materiel during the same period. On 28 and 29 January, at O Ta Paong Commune, Bakan District, Pursat Province, 21 sereika soldiers decided to return to the revolution, bringing with them 12 weapons. /Summary/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 17 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

SUCCESS OF PROSELYTIZATION MOVEMENT--As a result of the work carried out by the central and provincial proselytization groups, during the 4th week of January, 121 misled persons turned themselves in to our revolutionary authorities throughout the country, bringing along 96 assorted weapons. In January, 585 misled persons turned themselves in to our authorities throughout the country, bringing along 362 weapons. /Summary/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

PRAEH VIHEAR DEFENSE WORK--In 1985, many people in Preah Vihear Province volunteered to join army and militia units. They have successfully defended their localities. In 1985, they killed 80 enemies; captured 12; and seized 60 assorted weapons, 186 rounds of ammunition, and some war materiel. At the same time, 60 enemies surrendered and 89 misled persons turned themselves in to the revolutionary authorities, bringing along 39 assorted weapons. /Summary/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

RETURNEES IN KOMPONG THOM--As a result of people's cooperation with the proselytization groups in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province, 271 misled persons turned themselves in to the authorities in 1985, bringing along 59 weapons. /Excerpt/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

HOME NATIONAL DEFENSE LABORERS WELCOMED--On 20 February, the party committee and People's Revolutionary Committee of Phnom Penh Municipality organized a grand meeting to welcome the fourth group of workers who have made brilliant achievements in national defense labor. On that occasion, Comrade Nguon Nhel, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh Municipal Party Committee, read a speech expressing great joy and warm welcome to cadres, combatants, and workers who have made brilliant feats in carrying out their noble tasks along the Cambodian-Thai border. Comrade Nguon Nhel also noted the victories scored by our Cambodian revolution which has advanced firmly and developed in all fields thanks to the correct leadership of the KPRP and to the international cooperation, and particularly to the immense support and assistance, mentally and materially, of the Vietnamese party, government, army, and people. Phnom Penh capital has advanced rapidly with each passing day and people from all walks of life have joined in carrying out the triple revolutionary movement. Representatives of the national defense labor committee and workers spoke expressing confidence in the KPRP leadership and pledging to successfully carry out all resolutions and work targets set forth by the Fifth Party Congress. They also thanked people in Phnom Penh for willingly distributing food and money to them, thus rendering themselves worthy of being the good rear. /Text/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 22 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

KHOY KHUNHUOR ATTENDS CLOSE PROPAGANDA COURSE--On the morning of 24 February at the office of the newspaper KAMPUCHEA, a ceremony was organized to conclude a professional training course for reporters from various central propaganda networks and provinces and municipalities. Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Khoy Khunhuor, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission, highly appreciated the constant development of the Cambodian revolution during the past 7 years to which propaganda networks

throughout the country have actively contributed in the movement to defend and build the fatherland. The propaganda networks have carried out their work through broadcasts, film projections, and written material and scored brilliant victories in the country and abroad. The comrade says that these successes were due to the attention of the party and state in close cooperation with all fraternal socialist countries. Our cadres and personnel have been successively sent for training in journalism. The comrade stresses that this training course clearly reflects the role and duty of our journalists in actively contributing to defending the fatherland and revolutionary gains. The comrade calls on all the trainees to strive to study hard and take note of teachers' lessons to achieve good results at the end of the training. /Text/ /Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

RED CROSS AID DISTRIBUTION--Phnom Penh, 16 Feb (SPK)--The Cambodian Red Cross recently distributed 150 metric tons of rice--gift from the World Food Program--to disaster victims in Kompong Speu Province. Furthermore, another 73 metric tons of rice and 900 kg of clothes offered by the Mennonite Central Committee were also distributed to people in this province. /Text/ /Phnom Penh SPK in French 1134 GMT 16 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

PURSAT, KOMPONG CHAM RETURNEES--Phnom Penh, 14 Feb (SPK)--A group of 20 sereika soldiers reported themselves to revolutionary power of Bakan District, Pursat Province, on 28 January, bringing with them 14 assorted weapons. These are men of the 3d Company, 333th Battalion, 1,333th Regiment. Another group of 14 sereikas joined the revolutionary cause in Dambe District, Kompong Cham Province, on 3 February, bringing with them 7 assorted weapons. All these repentant persons enjoyed the material as well as moral assistance of the local authorities to begin a new life with their families. /Text/ /Phnom Penh SPK in French 0405 GMT 14 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

SPK REPORTS THAI VIOLATIONS--Phnom Penh, 25 Feb (SPK)--From 10 to 20 February, 24 Thai aircraft, including L-19's, A-37's, and F-5's, operated over the three border areas, Anlung Veng, O Bok, Yeang Dangkum, and Poipet, located between 5 and 10 km inside Cambodian territory in the provinces of Preah Vihear, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Battambang. At sea, the Thai Navy violated 161 times Cambodian territorial waters in the sectors between 4 and 20 nautical miles from Kaoh Kong and Kaoh Tang islands. On land, Thai mortars pounded 98 times hills /word indistinct/ and 505, some 10 km west and northwest of Pailin (Battambang), and hill 402, 15 km northwest of Smatdeng (Pursat). During the same period, many groups of Cambodian reactionaries infiltrated from Thailand to carry out sabotage activities. Cambodian border guards and the local population put 463 of them out of action and seized hundreds of weapons and a fair amount of other war materiel. /Text/ /Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT 25 Feb 86 BK/ 12228

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